

## UNITA ready for Angola ceasefire

PARIS (R) — U.S.-backed UNITA rebels said Monday they were seeking direct talks with Angola's Marxist government and were ready to proclaim an immediate ceasefire in the 15-year-old war. A statement signed by UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and made public in Paris called on the Lusaka government to accept secret talks in Portugal, the former colonial power. The statement was issued after a meeting of the guerrilla force's political and military leadership at the Jamba headquarters of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in southern Angola and dated April 7. The statement said that following talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington last week, UNITA "is willing to recognize the state of Angola on the basis of the Alvor accords." The 1975 Alvor agreement set the basis for Angola's independence from Portugal, with all three rival liberation movements agreeing to share power.

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## Crown Prince reaffirms backing for Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's total support for Iraq against the "unjust campaign it is facing," Prince Hassan told the Iraqi News Agency in Amman Monday that there was no need to reaffirm the Kingdom's support for Iraq since it is very evident. He said that the campaign against Iraq was an attempt to deflect attention from the Israeli-occupied territories and the violation of Palestinian human rights. "We should not forget that any reduction of nuclear and chemical weapons in our region should be a total and comprehensive one," he said. "The spread of these weapons is the result of the absence of peace in the region," he added. He noted that Israel was the first country to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

## Mubarak to visit Syria, Moscow

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak will soon visit the Soviet Union and Syria, officials ending years of differences with two of Egypt's former allies, presidential sources said Monday. "Mubarak's visit to Moscow and Syria is part of his long-term policy to balance Egypt's ties with the two superpowers and its ties with Israel and the Arab World," a presidency official told Reuters. Mubarak will meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad later this month in Damascus. The presidential sources said Mubarak was also due in Moscow in mid-May for the first trip to the Soviet Union in 18 years. The long-awaited trip was postponed last month when Moscow said its leaders were too busy to meet him.

## Gorbachev rejects Lithuanian offer

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday rejected Lithuanian attempts at compromise and his presidential council announced new moves to force the rebel republic to drop its independence declaration. A meeting of the council, chaired by Gorbachev, accused Lithuania's government of prolonging the crisis with Moscow and leading the Baltic republic into a dead end. "The present Lithuanian leadership is blocking any way out of the crisis with its anti-constitutional actions and the escalation of illegal measures," the council said, according to a report by the official news agency TASS. In a further escalation of moves to force the republic, which declared its independence on March 11, the council called for additional economic, political and other measures to protect the Soviet constitution and its citizens. It did not specify the measures that would be taken.

## Police end Bristol prison riot

LONDON (R) — British prison officers staged a show of force Monday to regain control of a riot-torn jail where rampaging inmates staged a rooftop protest. Specially trained squads moved into Her Majesty's Prison, Bristol, to dislodge more than 450 inmates who seized control of part of the prison Sunday night. At least 14 prisoners by and down Britain have been hit by a wave of unrest sparked by a nine-day-old siege at Strangeways prison in the northern city of Manchester, where about 20 inmates are still defying police and warden.

## Bulgaria to restore ties with Israel

TUNIS (R) — Bulgaria has told the Arab League it intends to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, the Bulgarian ambassador in Tunis announced Monday. Christo Yordanov Markov made the statement after meeting Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi. He told reporters the move would "in no way change the relations and friendship between Bulgaria and the Palestinian people... on the contrary, this will help the Palestinian cause."

## Decree names 60-member panel of politicians, ex-ministers and intellectuals

# Obeidat to head Royal Commission on national charter

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday named a 60-member Royal Commission to draw up a national charter to regulate political life in the Kingdom and appointed former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat to chair the panel.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, carried a Royal Decree giving the names of the commission's members, who include parliamentarians, scholars, intellectuals, university professors, political activists, writers and journalists.

Most of the names were already published by the Jordan Times Saturday and Sunday. Following are the names as carried by Petra:

Ahmad Obeidat (member of the Upper House of Parliament and ex-prime minister); Adnan Abu Odeh (the King's political advisor and a former minister); Khalil Al Salem (former minister and ex-governor of the Central Bank);

Suleiman Hadidi (lawyer and former head of the Bar Association); Awad Kheifit (president of Muwa University and former minister); Jumma Hammad (member of the Upper House of Parliament); Fawzi Tuameh (member of the Lower House); Mohammad Alawneh (member of the Lower House); Issam Bndir (prominent industrialist); Hani Abu Hijleh (lawyer); Mahmoud Al Kayed (chief editor of Al Ra'i); Jamal Tahar (columnist); Abdul Halim Khaddam (trade union leader); Ibrahim Bakr (lawyer); Laila Sharaf (Upper House member and former information minister); Hamad Farhan (Upper House member and a leading member of the Al Qawmiyun nationalist movement in the 50s and 60s); Asma Khader (lawyer and human rights activist); Said Al Tal (former minister and university professor); Ali Abu Nuwar (former chief of staff of the Armed Forces and a leader of an opposition

"free officers" movement in the 50s); Amin Shukry (former leading Baathist and now member of the Upper House of Parliament); Abdul Latif Arabiyat (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Balqa); Yusef Al Athem (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Maan); Majed Khalifeh (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Amman); Abdullah Akayleh (Muslim Brotherhood member and member of the Upper House); Mohammad Fares Tarawneh (Baathist deputy from Karak); Muna Shukry (pan-Arab nationalist writer); Samir Habashneh (pan-Arabist writer and agriculturalist); Tayseer Zibri (general secretary of the JPDP); Issa Mdanat (political bureau member of the Jordanian Communist Party and deputy from Karak); Theeb Marji (deputy from Irbid); Hamadeh Faraneh

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## PNC panel turns down Hamas' demands, seeks dialogue

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Palestine National Council (PNC) committee entrusted with revising membership of the council ended a three-day meeting in Amman Monday by turning down demands by Hamas, a Muslim fundamentalist group operating inside the occupied territories.

Hamas had demanded that it should acquire 40 per cent of the PNC's total number of seats as one of several conditions for agreeing to fall in line with the mainstream Palestinian leadership.

PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh said the 20-member committee, urged Hamas to join the PNC and reaffirmed the need for maintaining unity within the council.

Hamas had sent a memorandum to the Amman meeting demanding two fifths of the seats to represent what it called as its real strength in the occupied West Bank and Gaza

Strip. Sheikh Sayeh who chaired the meetings here, said the committee, which represented various Palestinian groups, stressed the need for the continuation of the uprising inside the occupied territories until victory is achieved and until the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people have been met. Sayeh called on Hamas to join the PNC and the unified leadership of the uprising and said that the committee was willing to reach understanding with Hamas.

Hamas was also reported to have told the committee that it would join the council if the latter abandoned the peace strategy adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

At its last session held in Algiers in 1988, the PNC declared an independent Palestinian state that would co-exist with Israel.

Hamas violently opposes any accommodation with Israel and PLO leader Yasser Arafat's two state proposals to reach a settlement with Israel.

Sayeh noted that the next session of the PNC will group 350 to 400 members who represent all factions as well as the Palestine Liberation Army and Palestinian commandos.

In its statement Monday, the committee called for continued dialogue with Hamas to involve it in the council, which, it said, will be composed in a manner that would deal with the present developments and changes in the Palestinian arena and would work towards enabling the Palestinians to gain their rights and establish their own independent state on Palestine soil.

The committee members demanded that the PNC should be authorized to draw up the PLO's general strategies and that the council be empowered to maintain supervision and control over all PLO operations. The committee also called for the creation of a control group grouping PNC members to be empowered with full authority to control PLO's institutions and their operations.

## Peres pursues peace talks, rightist backing

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Shimon Peres' Labour Party says it is determined to open Israeli-Palestinian peace talks while trying to woo right wingers to join its prospective government.

With Peres apparently assured of a 61-59 edge in parliament when he seeks approval of his government Wednesday, small factions Monday discussed switching sides to join a Labour administration.

Labour negotiators were seeking to attract Yitzhak Moda'i, a hawkish economics minister in the caretaker government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

But local media reported Labour members were upset that Moda'i and two other members of his liberal faction had demanded cabinet posts and that he had reservations about the proposed peace talks.

Peres, who orchestrated the defeat of Shamir's government a month ago because of his refusal to start peace negotiations, has promised to accept the proposal of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

"The Labour Party has made it very clear that... we are going to say yes to Baker," said Avi Gil, adviser to Peres. "So it is agreed by all parties."

Gil said a Peres government would promote the peace plan formulated last May by Shamir's broad coalition government that included Labour.

The Cairo talks are intended to advance that plan, which includes elections in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank and talks leading to limited self-rule.

"I wouldn't go into the timing of each stage but it's very natural that the new government will continue the peace process," Gil said.

"We shouldn't forget that the previous government collapsed because of its lack of readiness to say yes to Baker," he told Reuters.

However, the right-wing and left-wing groups gathering around a Peres government could provide an explosive mixture on important issue.

"We hope that Shimon Peres will form the government and open the way to peace," Shulamit Aloni, head of the five-member Citizens' Rights Movement, said following the signing of an agreement of support Monday.

At the opposite extreme, the Zionist National Religious Party expressed interest in ending its traditional support for Likud.

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## Nepalese rejoice

KATHMANDU (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of Nepalese paraded through Kathmandu Monday to celebrate a royal proclamation establishing a multiparty political system.

But amid the tumultuous joy, relatives wept silently at two hospitals to mourn the deaths of a man and a boy who were shot the night before.

The shootings came shortly after King Birendra yielded to the pro-democracy movement and lifted the ban on political parties.

At the army hospital, B.M. Bajracharya said his brother-in-law, Pusparatna Shakya, was shot and killed by government troops when he rushed out of his house upon hearing the royal proclamation on television.

A 12-year-old boy also was shot to death, his sister said at Bir Hospital. Doctors at the hospital said five other people were being treated for bullet wounds.

The people who brought the shooting victims to the hospital reported at least 10 other people had been killed and their bodies taken away by the troops, according to the doctors who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report could not be confirmed. Police denied there was any firing.

## Baz urges tripartite meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior official called Monday for a meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. foreign ministers to pave the way for a broader Middle East settlement to include other Arab states.

Osama Al Baz, chief political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, also said the Arab states were now at a "high degree of union" and that Egypt was trying to work out an even more unified Arab stand.

He spoke to reporters after meeting with Mahmoud Abbas, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official.

Mubarak flew to Iraq Saturday, mainly to try and defuse tension created after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein warned that Iraq would use modern chemical weapons if Israel attacked Iraq with nuclear weapons.

The president also was reported seeking to reconcile Syria and Iraq.

Baz stressed that a tripartite meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and American foreign ministers should take place "as soon as the political situation allows it. Egypt is ready."

Shimon Peres, Israel's Labour Party leader, is trying to put together a new cabinet. If approved by parliament next Wednesday, it is expected to endorse the tripartite meeting and a projected Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to take place afterwards in Cairo.

"The Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will be the start of a big breakthrough," Baz said.

"It will start a larger process to include other parties: Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The world will see an Arab desire for security and stability. There is a unified Arab stand for peace."

## U.S. senators in Syria

In Damascus, a high-powered U.S. Senate team urged Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to play a leading role in the search for Middle East peace, a member of the American delegation said.

The Syrian president, who has been reluctant to enter talks with Israel, told the senators he remained convinced that only an international solution under U.N. auspices would succeed.

Senator Howard Metzenbaum told a news conference in Damascus following three hours of talks with Assad that it was essential that any peace discussions should take place without preconditions.

The U.S. Senate delegation arrived in Cairo later Monday carrying a message from President George Bush to Mubarak.

"I have a message from President Bush to President Mubarak," Dole told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport from Damascus.

He declined further comment. Dole is expected to deliver Bush's message during talks on Tuesday with Mubarak.

## Grand coalition almost sealed in East Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German parties Monday virtually sealed a grand coalition to steer the country into German unification by agreeing on a conservative-led cabinet in which Social Democrats will get seven of the 24 ministries.

Prime Minister-designate Lothar de Maiziere said the only detail holding up creation of East Germany's first non-communist government was formal ratification by the parties' parliamentary factions, a formality expected by Tuesday.

He said his Christian Democrats (CDU), which led a conservative party trioka to a 48 per cent victory in East Germany's first free elections three weeks ago, would get 11 ministries in the new government.

The Social Democratic (SPD) will be given seven cabinet portfolios, liberal parties three, and two CDU-linked small parties, the German Social Union (DSU) and Democratic Awakening (DA) two and one seat respectively, he told reporters.

## Arab summit should deal with Jewish immigration, Qasem says

TUNIS (Petra) — An Arab summit is urgently needed to deal with the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine and to decide on pan-Arab plans vis-a-vis developments in Eastern Europe and ways to develop Arab relations with European nations, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Monday.

"An Arab summit is required to chart a joint Arab strategy capable of dealing with new challenges and dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration and paving the ground for a genuine united Arab force to defend Arab interests," Qasem said in statements to reporters in Tunis.

"No single Arab country can on its own deal with the question of Jewish immigration and Israel's expansionist plans which are bound to affect all Arab countries," he said. "Therefore a summit should work out a common strategy," he added.

"The danger of Israel's expansion can be stemmed through

building up an intrinsic Arab force relying on Arab potentials," the minister added. "At the same time, the Arab World can and should deal with the developments in Eastern Europe by striving to improve relations with the Soviet Union and its allies."

Jordan, Qasem said, has been striving to heal the rift among Arab states and will continue endeavours to end all inter-Arab differences and support any Arab country facing threats and dangers.

Referring to the outcome of the Jerusalem Committee meeting in Rabat, Qasem said that the committee laid down the bases for inter-Arab and Islamic action with regard to Jewish immigration into Palestine and the danger posed to the Holy City of Jerusalem as well as the recent U.N. Congress declaration on the Holy City.

The committee has decided to launch a campaign within the Islamic group to brief Muslim

countries on the recent developments and to highlight the grave danger posed to Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements ringing the Holy City, the minister said.

He said the committee would also launch a campaign in the international arena to expose and deal with the falsehoods contained in the U.S. Congress's declaration related to Jerusalem. Israel has benefited from these falsehoods which claim that the Holy City is the united capital of the Jewish state in contradiction to all United Nations resolutions and international principles.

King Hassan II of Morocco will spearhead efforts with the U.N. administration and the U.N. Security Council member states as well as the U.N. secretary general and the Vatican to point to the grave danger posed to Jerusalem, he said.

He said the committee had issued a statement calling for a United Islamic-Christian stand in

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## Iraq: Use of arms only in self-defence

# League expert urges Arabs to develop anti-nuclear weapons

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A senior Arab military expert urged Arab states to develop at least anti-nuclear weapons to achieve a power balance with Israel, an Abu Dhabi publication reported Monday.

"Israel now has 100 to 200 tactical nuclear heads, each with a destructive capacity of 20,000 tons of explosives," Hassan Al Bassam, director of the Arab League's Military Affairs Department, said in an interview with the United Arab Emirates Air Force Magazine.

He said Israel had also developed means to hit long-range targets with these nuclear heads.

"The Arab League's military affairs department has been continuously urging Arab states to possess deterrent capacity against Israeli nuclear weapons," he said.

Bassam's statements were made to the background of the Iraqi-Israeli war of words on missile capabilities, with President Saddam Hussein warning he would hit Israel with chemical weapons if it used its nuclear arsenal against Iraq.

Bassam hailed Iraq's recent reported development of a long-range missile and said: "I hope the Arabs would take this as an initiative for developing an advanced military industry."

"Israel had nuclear weapons 30 years ago. It is also certain that it has the means to launch the warheads in planes, by artillery, and in missiles," said Bassam.

Each warhead was equivalent to around 20,000 kilotonnes of high explosive, he was quoted as saying.

He did not reveal the sources of his information.

Bassam said that the Arab countries discussed the problem two years ago and decided they needed a deterrent against an Israeli nuclear capability.

President Hussein has pledged not to use his country's arms, including its controversial binary chemical weapons, except in self defence, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

"Any weapon we possess... would not be used but for self-defence," he told Egyptian and Iraqi journalists at Baghdad airport on seeing off Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday.

INA late Sunday quoted him as saying "Peace is a fixed slogan in our policy and in our programme."

Hussein said a Western media campaign was trying to suggest Iraq was making a nuclear bomb to allow "Israeli generals to declare that the needed step is to attack Iraq's installations."

"In such condition what did they (the Israeli generals) expect from Iraq? Is it to tell them please come in and strike at whatever you wish and Iraq will turn the right or the left cheek?" Hussein said.

"It is part of self-defence to retaliate against anyone who tries to commit aggression on us," he added.

Hussein said Iraq did not commit aggression against any other country but the recent Western media campaign was an aggression against Iraq.

INA said an Egyptian journalist told the president Iraq's announcement that it possessed chemical weapons had aroused world fears and asked Hussein how he could allay these fears.

He said Iraq would only use its weapons, in self-defence.

"We meant that we possess this (chemical) weapon but we also said Israel possesses the nuclear bomb," Hussein said.

On Iraqi-U.S. relations, Hussein said that a pro-Israel lobby in the United States had a hand in undermining relations.

"We find sometimes that the clouds which cover Iraqi-U.S. relations are equal to that of the Zionist lobby's interference in the U.S. policy," he said.

## Iraq expels U.S. diplomat

Iraq said Monday it was expelling an American diplomat in a further sign of worsening relations with the West.

INA said Iraq was expelling the unnamed U.S. diplomat in retaliation for Washington's expulsion of an Iraqi diplomat at the United Nations.

It quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as denying U.S. charges that the Iraqi diplomat, who was not named, was linked to an alleged plot to kill two opponents of the Iraqi government.

The spokesman saw a link between the U.S. expulsion of the Iraqi diplomat and what he said was an anti-Iraqi campaign in the West.

He said the expulsion "cannot be isolated from the series of feverish campaigns to harm Iraq in such a way that serves the aggressive goals of Israel."

"It was clear in this (expulsion) case as well, similar to previous incidents, that there exists an intention to harm Iraq," he said.

## Havel proposes substitute for NATO, Warsaw Pact

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (AP) — President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia Monday proposed the creation of an all-European security commission that would gradually supplant the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Warsaw Pact military alliances.

Opening a six-nation conference on Central and Eastern Europe, Havel called for the establishment of a commission as early as this year, declaring, "It is impossible to return to the Europe of the past."

Representatives from Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia took part directly in the closed-door meeting, while Austria, Italy and Hungary sent observers.

The idea of a security commission elicited a positive response from Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, who told reporters it was a "step in the right direction."

De Michelis is the first NATO minister to grant a tentative endorsement to the Czechoslovak

drive for new security structures on the most heavily armed continent.

But Hungary, represented by Socialists defeated in democratic elections Sunday (see page 8), stressed that settlement of tension over its ethnic minority in Czechoslovakia should precede any joint action with Prague, said Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky.

Havel's proposals were part of a 10-point agenda unveiled at the meeting, said spokesman Michael Zantovsky, who did not elaborate on the other issues.

The security commission was first suggested by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier at a Prague meeting of the Warsaw Pact March 17, eliciting the coolest reaction from the Soviets and a mixed response overall.

Both superpowers have reacted somewhat coldly to the suggestions that Europe's military blocs are outdated and should be disbanded.

## Belgian hostages' freedom tied to jailed Palestinian

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinian hostage-takers said Monday a Frenchwoman, her Belgian lover and their daughter would be released soon but four other Belgian hostages would only be let go if a comrade jailed for life in Brussels was freed.

Walid Khaled, spokesman for Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC), said Jacqueline Valente, 31, and her two-year-old daughter, Sophie, would be freed before the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan ends on April 26.

Palestinian sources said the three might be freed in Beirut. Airport sources said the Belgian government had asked the Lebanese authorities for permission to land a military plane at Beirut airport.

Houtekins and Valente were members of a family group, originally eight people, who were abducted from the yacht Silco in the western Mediterranean in November 1987 and denounced by the FRC as Jewish spies.

Khaled said the fate of the four other Belgian captives, seized with Valente and Houtekins aboard the yacht, was linked to the release of Nasser Said, who is serving a life sentence for an

attack on a Belgian synagogue in the early 1980s.

"The release of Nasser Said is a major demand to continue negotiations to free the four (Belgians). Nasser Said is a major demand," he said.

The other Belgian hostages are Houtekins' brother Emmanuel, 44, sister-in-law, Godelieve Kets, 39, and their children Valerie, 18, and Laurent 19.

Khaled said Valente, who gave birth twice in captivity, would be freed with one child only, Sophie, born to her and Houtekins about two years ago. He said Valente would explain after her release why only one child was freed.

Valente's two older daughters were freed in Libya in December 1988 with the help of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Khaled said Sunday his group would continue holding Emmanuel Houtekins and his family because the government in Brussels had failed to honour pledges.

He called Belgium's Justice Minister Melchior Wathelet a liar and said the FRC could prove he broke promises made in negotiations over the fate of their captives.

Wathelet said Saturday his government could not keep any promises that have not been made.

Earlier statements by the FRC, which the U.S. government calls the world's most dangerous terrorist group, have contrasted Belgium's approach to the fate of the hostages with that of France, which recently supplied Libya with warplanes.

A French envoy, identified by airport sources as Daniel Bremaud, arrived in Beirut Sunday. The nature of his visit was not immediately known but Palestinian sources linked it to talks over the expected release of the three hostages.

In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry denied that any French diplomat had been sent to Beirut.

Khaled said the group would release Emmanuel Houtekins, although he is Belgian, in response to an appeal by Qadhafi last Wednesday for the release of Valente and her family.

## Sheikh Saad denies preconceived plans for parliament

KUWAIT (AP) — Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted Monday as saying the government had no preconceived plans on the possible restoration of an elected parliament.

"The government has no cut-and-dried solution or approaches before the dialogue ends," said Sheikh Saad in statements published in the Kuwaiti press.

"Some people are circulating rumours which the government is not willing to discuss because they are not true."

Sheikh Saad, who doubles as prime minister, was apparently responding to speculation by the pro-democracy activists and deputies of the dissolved parliament contending the government was bent on revision of some articles of the constitution.

Some 30 former members of parliament have sent a message to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, expressing opposition to such an idea which they fear would mean a change in the Western-style 50-member elected parliament the northern Gulf country has prescribed in its constitution since independence.

Professional associations and the student federation have also been petitioning against the possibility.

The Kuwaiti parliament was dissolved in 1986 after vitriolic criticism of government members while the country was target of Iranian threats at the height of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Late last year, activists began campaigning for its return, with Sheikh Saad saying he was for the return of the parliament but sought "controls" to prevent a recurrence of the reasons that led to its dissolution both in 1986, as well as in 1976 after similar clashes between members of parliament and ministers. After the 1976 dissolution, the elected parliament had been restored in 1980.

## Pre-election corruption charges mar Algerian ruling party's image

ALGIERS (R) — Violence and corruption charges have tarnished the already battered image of Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) as it prepares to face the first multi-party elections since independence in 1962.

Charges by a former prime minister that FLN officials pocketed \$26 billion in bribes and commissions on foreign contracts have given new ammunition to newly legal opposition parties keen to end 27 years of undivided FLN rule.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche has called the charges grossly exaggerated and promised a thorough investigation. But the accusations by Abdul Hamid

Brahimi, prime minister from 1984 to 1988, have dealt a new blow to the FLN's electoral prospects as it struggles to rebound from deep internal rifts and anti-government youth riots in October 1988.

Public anger over the government's inability to prevent sudden, inexplicable food price hikes during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan has added to the party's woes.

Riots broke out in the eastern town of Cheria last Wednesday after rank and file FLN activists gathered to protest candidate lists that included incumbent town councillors.

Residents chanting the name of Abassi Madani, leader of the

powerful fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), wrecked the town hall and smashed shops, cars and state property.

The FIS appears to be the strongest of the six or seven opposition parties that are serious nationwide contenders for the town and provincial elections.

But independents have also flooded town halls to withdraw candidate lists in a sign that opposition has yet to capitalise fully on public discontent.

"It seems that independent lists are the ones that have the most chance of winning even if all candidates have not been able to make themselves known through lack of time, means and information," said the daily Horizons.

## Peres optimistic on Soviet ties, direct flights

TEL AVIV (Agence) — Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said Monday he believes the Soviet Union would upgrade ties with Israel and allow direct air links to expedite Jewish immigration once a Middle East peace process begins.

"I can already foresee the fruits of starting peace negotiations," Peres said in an interview published Monday in the Yediot Achronot newspaper.

Peres is expected to win a parliamentary majority Wednesday to become Israel's next prime minister.

He has said if he wins, his new government would immediately act to approve proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to hold preliminary Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

The talks would pave the way for elections in which Palestinians would choose delegates for negotiations on the status of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc refused to accept the Baker proposals, dividing the coalition government led by Likud and Labour. A no-confidence motion brought down the government on March 15.

Shamir is serving as caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed.

Peres said Monday that acceptance of the Baker plan would lead to a "dramatic change in

Israel's international standing."

He said Israel could get diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union, direct flights between the two countries and more international aid for absorbing immigrants, the leftist daily Al Hamishmar reported.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze proposed last week in Washington that direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights could be started if his country received assurances that no Soviet Jewish immigrants would settle on occupied land.

By occupied land, the Soviet official apparently referred to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

All three areas were occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel has annexed East Jerusalem and does not consider it occupied territory.

The Soviet Union broke relations with Israel after the 1967 war. Both sides in recent years have indicated a willingness to restore ties.

Israel has said it wants direct flights for Soviet Jews in order to expedite their immigration to Israel. The immigrants now arrive through European transit points.

The future of East Jerusalem and the occupied territories is the central issue in efforts to reach a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Avi Pazner, a spokesman for Shamir, said Sunday that Israel

could not ban Soviet Jews from the occupied territories because new immigrants have the right to live wherever they choose.

Shamir raised an international storm when he suggested on Jan. 14 that Israel needed to hold on to the occupied lands in order to absorb the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to arrive in the next few years.

Shamir later said Israel was not pushing Soviet immigrants to settle in the occupied territories, but would allow them to settle wherever they wished.

Israeli officials previously have said about one per cent of the Soviet Jewish immigrants were settling in the West Bank and Gaza. U.S. officials have said that if figures for East Jerusalem were included, the figure would be about 10 per cent.

Israel Radio reported Monday that 41,500 immigrants had arrived in Israel in a one year period ending March 30 and only 175 Soviet immigrants had settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile Soviet Jewish immigrants flooded into Israel ahead of the passover while Palestinians went on strike Monday to mark the start of the 29th month of their revolt.

Officials at Ben Gurion Airport said about 1,000 Soviet immigrants arrived aboard six flights from Eastern Europe Sunday. Another 500 came on three flights from Budapest Monday,

they said.

Israel censors temporarily lifted restrictions on reports of Soviet Jewish arrivals in time for the week-long Jewish holiday which begins Monday night.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians struggling for independence observed a strike called by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising and Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organisation.

Few of the 120,000 residents of the territories who work in Israel were at their jobs. There was no public transport, all businesses were closed and streets were empty.

Israeli officials expect about 100,000 Soviet Jews to immigrate this year and as many as 750,000 over the next five years.

A new computer system enabled the airport to handle the flood of migrants but newcomers still had a three to five hour wait.

On Palm Sunday, thousands of Christians retraced Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem before his crucifixion but curtailed their celebrations for a third year due to the uprising in the occupied territories.

Marchers carried olive branches instead of palm branches as a symbol of peace.

In the West Bank town of Beit Sabour, Israeli soldiers dispersed about 100 Palestinian women and children on a march after a Palm Sunday mass when they chanted nationalist songs.



Nearly 6,000 Ethiopian soldiers, captured at the fall of the Red Sea port of Massawa by the Eritrean rebels, wait to be marched off to prison.

## Marx, Lenin make a fast exit from Ethiopia

By Robert Powell  
Reuters

ADDIS ABABA — Every night socialism in Ethiopia fades a little more.

During the curfew hours between midnight and five a.m. groups of workmen take down portraits of Marx and Lenin adorning the streets of Addis Ababa and paint over gaudy slogans reflecting their now abandoned ideology.

Hammers and sickles emblazoned on red stars are blanked out along with slogans extolling the virtues of socialism and proletarian internationalism.

The changes take place only under cover of darkness, perhaps because President Mengistu Haile Mariam is embarrassed to have abandoned 13 years of commitment to Soviet-style socialism in a single three-hour speech.

"The prevailing conditions in Socialist countries which have reached high levels of development must shed light for us," Mengistu said in an historic address to the Central Committee of his Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) on March 5.

"As seen from all angles, the transition to a Socialist system... has proved difficult and unattainable."

Mengistu went on to announce a lifting of all restrictions on private investment and Ethiopia's speedy transition from a centrally planned to a free market economy.

Unprofitable parastatal com-

panies would be closed or sold off to private enterprise.

Peasants would be free to abandon their cooperatives, work the land individually and sell their crops on a completely free market.

And the doors of this proud but poverty-stricken country, crippled by famine and civil war, would be thrown wide open to foreign investment.

Finally, the WPE would dump its Marxist-Leninist ideology and transform itself into a new broad-based party of national unity.

There was even a broad hint, not fully spelt out, that Ethiopia would become a multi-party democracy.

After so many years of strict authoritarian rule, the public response was subdued, but unmistakably enthusiastic.

The price of teff, Ethiopia's staple food, fell 30 per cent in two days in Addis Ababa's main market in response to the lifting of all controls on agricultural marketing.

And after years of fearful silence, Ethiopians ranging from government officials to market traders began telling foreigners how terrible socialism really was.

Students sprayed green paint and smeared excrement over a bust of Karl Marx outside Addis Ababa University.

And people joked that a 10-metre statue of Lenin in the city centre was already facing towards the airport.

But although Mengistu has admitted he was wrong to have

imposed socialism on Ethiopia, no-one has any illusions that he is planning to quit power.

The workmen who removed the huge poster of Marx, Engels and Lenin in Revolution Square left up the one next to it showing Mengistu leading workers and peasants towards a better future.

Diplomats say Mengistu's reforms were not just a response to the changing situation in Eastern Europe.

They were also, and perhaps more importantly, a response to military setbacks in the civil war in the north and a weakening of Ethiopia's fragile economy.

"Everybody is surprised by the rapidity of the changes and how far they have gone. We never expected it... I think it has to do with the desperate military situation," one senior Western diplomat told Reuters.

Over the last six months, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has broken out of its stronghold in the northern province of Tigray to surge southwards, coming at one point to within 120 kilometres of the capital.

The other main rebel movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has meanwhile captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, isolating more than 100,000 government troops in a landlocked enclave that can only be supplied by air.

On the economic front, diplomats say the government is devoting two thirds of its budget to the war effort at a time when re-

venues from coffee exports are falling and the flow of aid from its former allies in Eastern Europe is drying up fast.

Although the scope and rapidity of the changes announced by Mengistu surprised many diplomats, they are not wholly unexpected.

For the last two years the government had been quietly easing controls on agricultural marketing and private investment and it was well known that more liberalisation measures were in the pipeline.

"Most of these things were not pulled out of a hat. Most of them we had heard rumours about over the last four to six months," one diplomat said.

Western donors are generally pleased by the economic reforms, which consist of policy measures they and the World Bank have been urging Ethiopia to adopt for years.

But few are planning to expand long-term development aid while the war in the north continues.

"We see the reforms as a good sign for the future long-term development of the country, but I reiterate our concern about a permanent ceasefire and peace talks," Canadian Overseas Development Minister Monique Landry told Reuters during a recent visit to Addis Ababa.

The rebels have already rejected Mengistu's reforms as not going far enough, but peace negotiations, which seemed to be getting nowhere at the end of last year, have at least resumed.

## 4th air raid reported on Massawa

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Ethiopian rebels said Monday two people were killed in a fourth government air raid on the Red Sea port of Massawa in the past five days.

In a clandestine radio broadcast monitored in Nairobi, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said Sunday's raid killed two brothers.

The broadcast said the latest deaths brought to 73 the number of civilians killed in raids on Massawa and the town of Afabet, about 100 kilometres to the northwest.

The raids, the rebel radio said, have wounded more than 360 others.

The rebels reported earlier at

least 24 people were killed and 75 wounded as four Ethiopian Air Force planes attacked the town in the third raid, Saturday.

There was no way to independently verify the rebel claims.

The rebels also accused Ethiopian Air Force of targeting civilians with cluster bombs. A spokesman in London said napalm also had been dropped on the port.

Cluster bombs contain dozens of smaller bomblets that are dispersed upon impact, hurling shrapnel over a wide area.

Israel has been accused of supplying cluster bombs to the government or President Mengistu Haile Mariam. Both Israel and Ethiopia deny the charge.

The rebels captured Massawa, one of only two Ethiopian ports on the Red Sea, on Feb. 11. That was three days after they launched a major offensive in Ethiopia's northernmost province.

Meanwhile, another insurgent group claimed the capture Saturday of the town of Mehal Meda in Showa province, about 160 kilometres northeast of Addis Ababa, the capital.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front said it "dispersed the enemy army entrenched at Mehal Meda" in an hour of fighting.

That claim also was made in a clandestine radio broadcast. It could not be confirmed.



## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:45 ..... Programme review  
15:50 ..... Children's programme  
16:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
16:05 ..... Local programme  
16:10 ..... Agricultural programme  
16:15 ..... Programme review  
16:20 ..... News in Arabic  
16:25 ..... Arabic series  
16:30 ..... Programme review  
16:40 ..... Local programme  
16:45 ..... News summary in Arabic

#### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Des Chiffres Et de Lettres  
18:20 ..... Documentary  
18:30 ..... News in French  
18:45 ..... Aujourd'hui en Jordanie  
18:50 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:00 ..... News in Arabic  
19:10 ..... Charles in Charge  
19:20 ..... Scientific Legacy of the Arab World  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... In the Heat of the Night

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:05 ..... Fair  
05:30 ..... (Sunset) Dohr  
11:37 ..... Dohr  
15:13 ..... 'Asr

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 810740.  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Assiuta International Church Tel. 683525.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Slight rise in temperatures will occur

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalid Masadi ..... 743500  
Dr. Issam Hawamneh ..... 694830  
Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr ..... 646426  
Dr. Adel Dahdoub ..... 893644  
Pinar pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 786336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 670055  
Nakrosh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

#### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630521  
Hotel Complaints ..... 625800  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 897467  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hassan Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642816  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mafraq, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 664171/4  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Munasser Hospital ..... 672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 665275/7  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajira ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 802405/0  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3200-5, where it should always be verified.  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:45 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
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## Earth Day celebrations will stress on protection of nature

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has prepared a full programme of activities for Earth Day which will be celebrated in Jordan on April 22.

An RSS statement said the integrated programme includes, among other things, a campaign to spread awareness among members of the public about the RSS's stations used to monitor pollution in the air. The stations will be installed in several regions in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid and Madaba.

The statement said that during the campaign, to be held between April 11 and 22, members of the public will have access to the mobile stations which contain

modern equipment.

"In cooperation with the Vehicle Licensing Department, the RSS has prepared another programme to explain the use of advanced equipment to test exhaust gases from vehicles and will distribute posters and pamphlets to alert members of the public about the danger of fumes and exhaust gases," the statement said.

Jordan will hold a number of celebrations to mark International Earth Day with a major campaign to lay emphasis on protection of nature and the environment.

The campaign, on a nation wide scale, will be spearheaded

by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and a special earth day committee chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor. The campaign includes representatives from various ministries and government departments.

At least 2,000 students will be involved in part of the campaign to remove rubbish and garbage including discarded tyres from highways shoulders and public areas.

The campaign will include lectures, seminars, exhibitions and distribution of posters that highlight the need for national efforts to protect the environment.

## Nabulsi predicts economic stability, reduced inflation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will sign the first draft of a letter of intent for 1990 in the coming few days in line with the aims and objectives of the ongoing economic restructuring programme which is designed to stimulate the national economy and bring about stability to Jordan's financial and monetary systems, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi announced Monday.

"The letter of intent adopts economic policies aimed at achieving a 2.5 per cent economic growth and reducing to 10 per cent the current inflation rate in the Kingdom," Nabulsi said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The implementation of the programme, Nabulsi said, is expected to reduce the total deficit in the fiscal budget from 12.4 per cent in 1989 to 5.9 per cent in 1990.

"This is considered a truly corrective effort, implemented in a record short period of time," Nabulsi added.

He said that the programme also aimed at reducing the deficit in the country's balance of trade from 15.1 per cent in 1989 to 12 per cent in 1990.

The government aims to restructure the general budget in a manner that it would show less dependence on foreign aid and is currently striving to maintain the present exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar," he added.

"At the same time, the government is determined to stem borrowing from foreign sources, and will continue to help the CBJ replenish the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves while at the same time rescheduling foreign

debts as part of measures needed for the time being to achieve that goal," Nabulsi pointed out.

"In 1989, the national economy had attained stability, following a hard time and difficult circumstances and the government had been able to achieve some of the objectives of the economic restructuring programme," Nabulsi added.

He said that the past year witnessed a reduction in imports and general expenditure which in turn led to a reduction in the volume of deficit in the fiscal budget from 24 per cent in 1988 to 16 per cent in 1989.

"In the past year Jordan's exports increased by 11 per cent, almost double the expectations of the economic restructuring programme of six per cent," Nabulsi said.

He said that Jordan's imports last year dropped by 12 per cent compared to the programme's expectations of four per cent, leading to a reduction in the balance of trade deficit.

Nabulsi's statement came in the wake of a statement by Minister of Finance Basel Jaraneh who announced that Jordan will soon acquire a \$325 million loan from the World Bank to contribute to increasing foreign currency reserves and help redress the balance of payments deficit.

Jardaneh, who spoke on Jordan Television Sunday evening, said that the Kingdom was able to increase its foreign currency reserves by \$330 million in the past year.

Last week, Jardaneh said that the IMF had cleared the way for Jordan to launch negotiations to reschedule its debt and interest payments due in 1991, and to secure the new loans during the 1990 fiscal year.



**KING HOSTS IFTAR:** His Majesty King Hussein Monday hosted an iftar attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officers in the Armed Forces General Command and the Public Security, the General Intelligence and the Civil Defence departments. The banquet, held at Basman Palace, was also attended by Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid (Petra photo)

## Ministry of Supply official says document amendments illegal

## First witness takes stand in official corruption trial

By Saad G. Hattar and Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Writers

AMMAN — The first witness took the stand Monday in a case involving alleged official corruption, and his testimony appeared to strengthen the prosecution's argument that alterations made by a former official to a tender document were illegal.

Fuad Gharaybeh, member of the tender committee at the Ministry of Supply, indicated in his five-hour testimony that amendments allegedly made by former Ministry of Supply Under-Secretary Abdullah Hawamdeh to a rice purchasing tender were illegal. The session was adjourned and Gharaybeh will return to the stand next Tuesday.

Lawyers representing Hawamdeh, who was released last month on a JD 250,000 bail, and Mamoun Talhoumi, of the National Company for Development and Finance, pleaded not guilty to charges of "profiteering from an official position." Both Hawamdeh and Talhoumi were present at the public session.

Ibrahim Baker, representing the National Development and Finance Company in the case, cross-examined the witness on behalf of Hawamdeh's lawyers. He tried to show that the amendments concerning the bagging of the rice in Aqaba instead of the country of origin, the United States, was not contrary to the tender document. He also tried to establish that the document did not have a specific article concerning the place and quality of the bagging. Gharaybeh argued that although the document did not specify the bagging procedures, the ministry's original tender referred "indirectly" to these specifications.

The witness also appeared to implicate the Amman-based Nabat Agri-Business, the other company which shared the tender with the National Development and Finance Company.

"The freight hired for Nabat Agri-Business to ship the rice proved not suitable for shipping consignments for human consumption," the official said. He said that the freight hauls were rusty and had been filled with iron and steel shavings.

"Although tests have shown that a substantial quantity of rice was damaged because of the shipping, the ministry could not seek compensations immediately," he added.

The ministry then formed a special committee to identify the losses but "nothing came out from the panel," although Nabat Agri-Business' parent company, Balfour McLean, offered to pay compensation of \$20,000 more than was suggested by the ministry panel, according to Gharaybeh. He did not identify the two figures or explain why the ministry had not reached a settlement. "If the witness's testimony is correct, then why has the ministry delayed reaching a settlement, especially one that is favourable," a legal source commented.

Hawamdeh's lawyer, Saleh Jaroudi, told the Jordan Times Monday evening that the compensation matter with Nabat Agri-Business was not related to the case.

He did not rule out, however, the prospect that Gharaybeh's information "could open another case."

## Jordan, Pakistan have common views on Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Pakistan share common views on the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and support ongoing uprising in the occupied territories, according to a joint communique issued by the Lower House of Parliament at the conclusion of a visit by a Pakistani parliamentary delegation to the Kingdom.

The communique, an English-language text of which was made available to the Jordan Times, was issued late Sunday when the Pakistani delegation, headed by Upper House Speaker Wasim Sajjad, wound up its visit and left Jordan.

Following is the full text of the communique:

Mr. Wasim Sajjad, chair-

man of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the accompanying delegation made a three-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During the visit talks were held between Mr. Sajjad and the accompanying delegation and Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, president of the Senate, and the members of the Senate bureau. The talks covered the dimensions of the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union; Israel's plans to settle them in the occupied Arab territories; the dangers and continuous aggression this immigration represents to Holy Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories and the danger and threat this Jewish immigration

poses to Jordan and the Arab countries neighbouring Israel as a result of the aggressive and expansionist Israeli policy, and the expulsion of the Palestinian people from their land, properties and holy shrines and their deprivation from their right to self-determination on their national soil.

The Pakistani delegation expressed its condemnation of the Israeli immigration policy and inhuman practices, and its support of the Palestinian people's intifada against the occupation.

It also hailed Jordan's policy and the efforts aiming at the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace pursuant to Security Council resolutions

and international legitimacy based on the elimination of the Israeli occupation, the exchange of land for peace, and self-determination for the Palestinian people on their national soil.

Mr. Sajjad elaborated in detail the question of Kashmir and the developments in the region. The Jordanian side expressed its support of U.N. resolutions related to the question of Kashmir and Jordan's keenness to have this question solved by peaceful means pursuant to international legitimacy, U.N. Charter and human rights.

Both delegation discussed issues of mutual interest and the close ties of brotherhood and cooperation in the various

fields aiming at achieving prosperity and advancement for the Jordanian and Pakistani peoples.

In another statement, parliament said: "It is worth mentioning that the speaker of India's Lok Sabha (House of Representatives) visited Jordan last month on the head of a parliamentary delegation and held talks with Jordan's Parliament on the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two sides. The delegation hailed Jordan's international policy and its role in the Non-Aligned Movement, the cooperation and friendship characterising the relations of the two countries and their keenness to solve world disputes through peaceful means.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Marwan Al Qasem meets officials in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met here Sunday evening with the foreign minister of Tunisia and the director of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Discussions at these separate meetings covered pan-Arab affairs and bilateral ties. Qasem arrived in Tunis on his way back to Amman after attending a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Rabat.

### Envoy calls for broader cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly appointed Mexican ambassador to Jordan Dr. Graciela Dela Lama Monday called on Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and discussed bilateral cooperation in tourism. She extended an invitation to the minister to visit Mexico. The ambassador later called on Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and discussed bilateral cooperation in exploitation of mineral resources and oil prospecting.

### Jordan, Mauritania to boost cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher discussed Monday, with Mauritanian Minister of Industry and Minerals Mohammad Salem, cooperation between Jordan and Mauritania in mineral resources. The Mauritanian minister is in Amman to hold talks with the Amman based Mining Company on exploitation of mineral resources in his country. Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) is currently conducting a feasibility study on electricity supplies in Mauritania, a project which will be financed by the Arab Council for Economic and Social Development.

### Exhibition opens in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The first exhibition of national industrial products held in Zarqa opened Monday. The exhibition, to last until the end of the holy month of Ramadan, displays a variety of traditional products, food supplies, handicrafts and includes a special wing for art work, books and publications. A national folk troupe presents a variety of national songs and dancing to the visitors.

### Woman gives birth to triplets

IRBID (Petra) — A Jordanian woman has given birth to triplets and the mother and three newly born babies are reported to be in good health. A statement from Ibn Al Nafis hospital in Irbid, where the delivery took place, said that the 33-year-old woman gave birth to the three girls weighing 2,110 grammes, 1,720 grammes and 2,000 grammes after a break of eight years and following a long period of treatment. According to Dr. Ahmad Anagreh, who supervised the delivery, the event occurs once in every 10,000 cases.

### Minister inaugurates mosque

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr said Monday that mosques are considered the place where the propagation of Islam started. In the opening ceremony of Al Abrar mosque in Zarqa governorate Faqr outlined the importance of mosques in the history of Islam. He stressed the need for joining efforts and abiding by the regulations of Islam in order to return the Islamic holy places and the Arah land. Deputy Ziad Abu Mahfouz, president of Bi'r As Saba' society which financed the construction of the mosque delivered a speech in which he explained the society's goals. Faqr also opened a charity bazaar, the proceeds of which will go to needy families and teaching needy students. The bazaar included embroideries, handicrafts, artificial flowers and ceramics.

## Arab summit should deal with Jewish immigration

(Continued from page 1)

support of the Arab rights in Jerusalem. Qasem reviewed developments concerning the Palestinian issue and outlined the history of the Arab-Palestinian struggle, peace efforts in the region and Jordan's position on these developments. "Israel," Qasem said, "managed from the time of its establishment until 1988, to expand,

strengthen its strategic relationships with Western states, affirm its role as an important party in the international strategic equation and as a defendant of the Western states' rights in the region because of the absence of a unified Arab stand to deal with the Israeli enemy." "As a result of the lack of awareness by Arabs during the past three decades, Israel capitalised on this and is supported by international

forces," he added. Qasem said Jordan was the first to warn of these difficulties in the Arab-Israeli conflict when the late King Abdullah called the Arabs to accept the partition plan to confirm the rights of the Palestinian people.

Qasem said that as a result of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) 1988 acceptance of international resolutions, particularly U.N. Security Council

Resolutions 242 and 338 and conditions set by former U.S. administrations for dialogue with the PLO, the Arab stand became for the first time unified.

"Jordan's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 following the 1967 war had embarrassed Israel."

Qasem stressed that developments in the Palestinian political stand and the continuation of the intifada put Israel in a real crisis.

## Experts to review Mediterranean fever

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Some 100 to 150 specialists from Jordan and other countries will gather in Amman on April 28 for a two-day conference on familial Mediterranean fever, a hereditary diseases which eventually causes failure of the kidneys.

Dr. Abdullatif Hiyari who chairs a committee preparing for the conference said that at least 34 working papers on this disease would be reviewed by the delegates who come from Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Malta as well as the United States, the Netherlands and France in addition to Jordan.

Dr. Hiyari said that the delegates will discuss means of dealing with the disease which is more common in the Mediterranean region than elsewhere in the world.

The disease, known as amyloidosis, largely affect young people aged between five and 20 years. It requires prompt treatment, otherwise it leads to complications and failure of the kidneys.

Asked on the symptoms of the disease, Dr. Hiyari said that a patient normally feels abdominal pain accompanied by fever which lasts up to four days.

According to Dr. Hiyari, the conference, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will discuss means of dealing with the disease which is highly dangerous and contagious within the Arab region.

## Private universities open doors to students in 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The chairman and members of the board of directors of the Arab International Company for Education and Investment Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein voicing their appreciation for his support of expatriates' endeavours to set up educational institutions in Jordan.

The company has been given licence to open a private university in Jordan, which, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, will open its doors to students at the start of the coming academic year 1990-1991.

The new university is to be known as the University of Applied Sciences which, along with the another new university to be

named the Amman Private University, will raise to six the number of universities in the Kingdom.

Petra said that the University of Applied Sciences will start off with only two faculties: Science and Arts and noted that more than 80 per cent of the university's capital had been paid up by Jordanian expatriates, while the rest was provided by Jordanian citizens in the Kingdom.

The University of Applied Sciences was the brainchild of an expatriates' conference held in Amman during the summer of 1988, and after formalities, the Ministry of Higher Education gave consent for its establishment.

According to Dr. Seif Eddin Al Ramahi, who chairs the university board, the students will be mainly the children of expatriate Jordanians, and the university will not try to compete with the other four existing universities, but would rather complement them.

In a statement earlier this year, Dr. Ahmad Hourani from the Amman Private University, said that upon the start of the coming academic year the two universities will enroll at least 2,600 students.

The Amman Private University will be located in the Balqa governorate, while the University of Applied Sciences will be situated in the Amman area.

## Ministry reappoints 191 teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education announced Monday that to date, it had reappointed 191 teachers who had been dismissed for political reasons.

The Ministry of Education will do all it can to absorb the rest of the dismissed teachers by giving them priority in employment in accordance with the ministry's employment plan for 1990.

The Ministry of Education was among the first government departments to reinstate employees dismissed for political reasons, and the move was taken upon clear instructions from Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Khalil Al Kofahi at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Ajloun girls college.

## THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

## SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "Future dimensions of the Palestinian uprising" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

## FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "Remontons les Champs Elysees" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Documentary programme entitled "Conserving America: Champions of Wildlife" at the American Centre — 3:00 p.m.

## Jordan Times

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## Work ahead on national charter

ON THE SURFACE, it would seem comforting and even gratifying that the Royal Commission entrusted with the mandate of drawing up the proposed national charter is to include personalities from the far right to the extreme left. Yet, such a wide spectrum of views within the Royal Commission could present some difficulties when the time comes to agree on the terms of the charter. Even more difficult would be to agree on the arbiter of the expected divergent views that are bound to emerge among the members of the commission. Uppermost on the minds of the people is how to reconcile the aspirations and objectives of the far left with those of the far right. The art of compromise between the opposing views will thus have to be the name of the game pursued by the commission. True, in the final analysis, the people of Jordan will have to decide on the terms of the national charter when they cast their votes in the national referendum scheduled to take place after the drafting of the document is done and finished with. But that exercise of judgement will be on a take it or leave it basis with no opportunity to amend it in any way or form. Another important task is to define the legal implications of the proposed charter. Until this point in time this issue has been either avoided or held in abeyance. The people of Jordan cannot exercise their ultimate right to accept or reject such a charter if they do not know yet its legal import. It is all good and fine to keep on repeating that the charter is not intended to amend the Constitution of the land; but the people of the country have asked and are still asking for the determination of the legal standing of the charter. After all it is supposed to be the guiding light for all future political activities in the country and if we still do not know the legal effect of such a charter, it would be difficult to pursue its aims in a clear and effective manner. The adoption of the national charter is not an academic exercise and the sooner the state decides about its full legal import the better advised would be the people of Jordan on how to deal with it.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Monday discussed statements by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at a press gathering in Aqaba, and said that both leaders have voiced their countries' solidarity with Iraq in the face of hostile campaigns being launched at this sister country. The two leaders have reaffirmed Iraq's right to acquire all types of weapons and defend its soil in the face of attacks and conspiracies, and in the face of Israel's arrogance, the paper noted. It said that solidarity among the Arab Cooperation Council countries is a must, because it gives these countries added power and strength vis-a-vis all Israeli threats. Iraq's hand is extended out for peace and for security in the Gulf and this Arab country is willing to live in peace with all its neighbours after eight long years of conflict, said Al Ra'i. Iraq realises the meaning and the importance of peace because it has suffered for long and has offered a great deal of sacrifice to defend Arab soil and rights, the paper continued. But at the same time, any new conspiracies concocted by world Zionism and any plots hatched by the enemies of the Arab World will find Iraq far stronger than at any time in the past, and ready to deter aggression, the paper said. At the same time this aggression will be confronted by an alliance from Iraq's sister states which are determined to extend support for their Iraqi brothers in word and deed.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Monday on the latest International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting which was held in Cyprus and which ended with a declaration calling, among other things, for speedy action to bring about peace to the Middle East. The IPU meeting has called for an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices, and with the participation of the PLO among other concerned parties for the sake of working out a formula for a lasting peace, says Ibrahim Sakikha. The writer notes that such calls had earlier come from the European Community and the European Parliament as well as the Arab countries and the Soviet Union, backed by all the developing nations of the world. It is indeed a world-wide demand and a call by nearly all members of the international community that such a conference be held to achieve peace between the Arabs and Israel based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the writer notes. He says that as the Israelis are involved in further bickering about the formation of a new government, precious time is lost and the Arabs ought to take their case to the U.N. General Assembly where no superpower has the right to veto any resolutions.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Monday commented on Jordanian-Egyptian unequivocal support for Iraq's stand in defence of its rights and its land as expressed by King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak at Aqaba Saturday evening. The paper said that the two leaders have emphasised beyond any shred of doubt that the ACC countries will come to the aid of Iraq in the event of any aggression on that country. They also stressed the need for Arab states to transcend deep differences and disputes for the sake of confronting the common dangers, the paper noted. The paper said that the King and the President stressed in their statements that the Arab Nation seeks peace for which it has yearned for many years, but at the same time this nation will have to defend its land and its interest in the event of any aggression.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Beasts of the jungle

By Rami G. Khouri

WHAT was the best show in town during the past political season? My vote, without any hesitation whatsoever, goes to the little drama last month by the duo of parliament and the press. You might think the press-parliament argument was a spasmodic little hiccup in Jordan's otherwise smooth transition into a sunny little Third World democracy. Think again. What we saw unfold before our eyes was one of humankind's most ancient and vicious rituals — a struggle for raw power which saw two crazed male jungle animals fighting over territorial rights and the prize of mating with the beautiful female of their species, in order to perpetuate their species and their role in God's order.

The press and Parliament kicked up so much dust it was difficult at times to recognise the underlying point they were fighting about. The point — the prize they coveted — was, ostensibly, facts and information about the Parliament's secret debate on cases of alleged corruption. In reality, it had nothing at all to do with information about corruption cases.

It was a fight over the most elementary kind of political power — the kind that makes grown and otherwise mature men lose their normal rationality, and then try to hide their loss of cool by offering all sorts of fancy arguments about the right of the press to conceal its sources or about the constitutional obligation not to report secret parliamentary sessions. The significance of the

spectacle we have just seen — and we have only seen episode one in what promises to be a long-running and exciting drama — is that it probably represents the first time in modern Jordanian political history when a genuine power struggle took place between two branches of government and society in which the executive branch was not involved.

What we have seen — mark the date, March 1990, it will go down in history as a turning point — is a pivotal moment when political power started to be diffused throughout Jordanian society. When was the last time you could recall a struggle over information that did not involve the executive branch of government?

The manifestation of power in this instance was facts and information. Parliamentarians who would have us believe they receive their mandates and their voting instructions from the ghost of Arab nationalism, Parity in Public Service, God, or a combination of all three, suddenly found themselves jealously embracing facts and information like a child embraces its first candy or toy. It was theirs and theirs alone, to be shared with the people at some future moment when they deemed it appropriate. They had discovered what former governments had practised for many years — that information is power.

But, of course, the practices of successive, excessive former governments finally caused otherwise patriotic and rational Jordanians, in a peak of

humiliation and anger, to burn a few local medical centres and banks. The message then was: tell us the truth. Do not lie to us. Do not hide facts from us. Do not deceive us. Do not treat us like children. The message was real, and strong. And its shelf life did not expire in March 1990.

So, what does one conclude when the very Parliament that was elected on the strength of such anti-establishment sentiments itself decides to start playing games with facts and information, and withholding information from the people of the realm? One concludes that grown men who smell power — like those who fall in love — start to drift into another world, a perfect world, an orderly and beautiful world in which he who knows something is he who wields power.

But then, should we blame the parliamentarians? Probably not. All they did was to react like the normal human beings they are. The press trespassed on their territory. The parliamentarians felt threatened. They fought back like any threatened animal would do — by the political equivalent of extending their claws, flashing their fangs, and slashing out with all their power.

The press replied in kind, with all sorts of mumbo-jumbo about confidentiality and protection of sources and other semi-ecclesiastical ritualistic dances. The jungle was alive. The mighty beasts were all agitated, and prancing. They had to prove to one another that they were important, and

outraged, and that their mandate to protect the people of Jordan, if not the entire Arab Nation, was violently threatened by this ugly episode. The beasts of the jungle were reaching such a state of frenzy that they threatened to transform ritual into apocalypse.

Of course, the information the press published about the parliamentary committee discussions is practically irrelevant now. The actual facts published will not long be remembered by the history of the Middle East (quick, before you can say parliamentary confidentiality three times, what damage has been done by the details published by the press?), a long history that started when Noah and his shipload of animals first started the business of documenting the deeds of man and beast.

The parliamentarians might just as well have been discussing the colour of their window curtains, or kitchen tiles. Does anyone remember the earth trembling when Parliament's secrets were published? I heard no stories of fathers weeping, or children becoming vicious, or mothers turning their backs on their offspring. So what's the big deal?

The big deal is that Parliament was angry because it was sticking its young toe into the untasted waters of information and political power. It wanted the waters for itself. A fish called the press came out of the water and bit the toe.

Before this little episode took place, the dynamics we had seen previously in Parli-

ment were predictable — not so much ritualism, as part of an established bureaucratic cycle. In this category I include Parliament's response to His Majesty King Hussein's speech opening Parliament, its response to the government's policy statement, the confidence motion debate, and the comments on the budget. Everything said in those episodes was a re-run of the slogans and themes of the election campaign. We'd heard it all before. It was good to hear it again, but it did not redraw the political map. It made us feel good, but it did not enrich our world.

However, the episode of the press was something new, and from Parliament's viewpoint, more dangerous. It represented a novel attempt by a new force to make its mark on a political stage which had been dominated until then by Parliament alone. The most interesting thing, though, is what happened after the animals of the jungle finished flashing their fangs and slashing at the air near each other's delicately combed manes. Parliament and the press decided that it made no sense to fight over the expanded pie of political power — it made much more sense to share the pie. Pass the forks around.

And all for the better. Look for the press now to publish more allegedly "secret" information, without much fuss from Parliament, because the rules of the political game have been changed, the number of players expanded, and the out-

of-bounds lines extended a little bit. This is good news for Jordan.

It suggests that society will be tempted to remain within rational limits because excesses by one sector or branch will be checked by the watchful eye of another sector or branch. It also promises that the people of Jordan will have more information about facts that have an impact on their daily life, and on the future of their children.

But all of this is only prelude. The really important thing is this: the jungle is being opened up. More animals can roam through it, and enjoy its fruits and pleasures and treasures. Parliament and press will be joined by labour unions, professional organisations, political parties, youth groups, special interest groups, lobbies, and many other beasts who heretofore have been too scared to show their face, or who could not survive in the environmental conditions that prevailed in the jungle previously.

Through this process, the jungle will slowly be transformed into a forest, and then, perhaps, into a meadow, and finally into a normal, ordinary but sunny little patch of God's earth — where, if we look hard enough on clear nights with a full moon, we can still make out the faint traces of the bull of a passing boat, laden down with many pairs of animals, sent on their mission of survival by God, but led by meo who could differentiate between reality and dreams.

## Honeymoon ends on rocky road to realism in South Africa

By Rodney Pinder  
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — One of the first pictures of Nelson Mandela after he was freed from 27 years' imprisonment showed him smiling at the side of South African President F.W. de Klerk. Two months and 400 deaths later, Mandela met de Klerk last Friday to rescue talks derailed by violence. He refused to appear before journalists with the white leader, avoiding another side-by-side photograph.

It was a measure of how much things have changed in South Africa since the heady days of February when de Klerk freed Mandela, figurehead of the black liberation movement, and legalised his African National Congress (ANC) and other left wing opposition groups.

The dramatic reforms created a mood of optimism and goodwill between black and white, epitomised by the two leaders beaming side-by-side. But it quickly crashed in an explosion of violence.

The ANC called off preliminary talks with the government after police fired on black demonstrators in the Transvaal township of Sebokeng.

Faction-fighting in black areas, particularly in Natal where ANC supporters are locked in open warfare with the conservative Inkatha movement of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, had some headline reaching for their guns to prepare to defend their homes and businesses.

More than 400 people were killed and much wishful thinking shattered by the time Mandela and de Klerk got negotiations back on track last Friday and set May 24 as a new date for talks. A sense of sober realism settled in about the rocky road to a new South Africa.

"One reality now confirmed is that this country is nowhere near ready for a negotiated settlement — or a non-racial democracy," the liberal Weekly Mail said in an editorial.

But the newspaper and political analysts said the key players — de Klerk's white National Party, which has ruled through its race law instrument of apartheid for 40 years, and the ANC, its main black foe — had little choice but to force ahead with talks.

De Klerk had moved far enough to make a return to white repression costly and unlikely, while the ANC had all but given up hope of overthrowing whites by force, the analysts said.

Friday's meeting, the first official encounter between government and ANC, was quite a small

step. The two sides decided merely to go ahead with preliminary discussions on how to set up proper white-black power sharing negotiations.

Violence persists in the townships, although at a slightly lower level. And there is a constant danger of more incidents like Sebokeng as the deeply conservative white police, more used to whipping and shooting blacks than watching them peacefully exercise their right of political protest, meet more demonstrators demanding faster change.

The Johannesburg-based human rights commission reports more than 600 blacks detained without trial as the government clamps down on unrest — the highest figure in a year.

Experts predict a turbulent on-again-off-again pattern will become familiar in the negotiating process as the government and the ANC and smaller factions jockey for position.

The apparent crumbling of South Africa's black homelands, spawned by apartheid and recognised as independent entities by only their Pretoria creators, appears to have helped the ANC.

Two coups in a month, the latest in Venda on Thursday, replaced pro-Pretoria rulers with ones anxious to join in the broader black struggle.

Four out of six invited homeland leaders boycotted talks with de Klerk last Friday apparently in sympathy with the ANC. If the government had been counting on conservative homeland leaders as potential allies against the radicals of the ANC, it may have to rethink its strategy, analysts said.

"Beautiful, beautiful crumbling," chuckled black activist Ntsho Motlana, a physician friend of Mandela, after the Venda coup. "All the homeland leaders will side with the ANC. Government divide and rule will not succeed."

ANC strategists are expected to focus on isolating Zulu chief Buthelezi to break his power base in the eastern seaboard province of Natal. He is unlikely to give up without a fight.

Most analysts believe political manoeuvring and alliance-forming will dominate the next few months and that real power-sharing talks may not start until next year.

"Most of us have completely underestimated the difficulties of the substantive negotiations, of achieving real answers, but there is no other way to do it," says liberal white member of parliament Denis Worrall.

"We are talking about a whole new South Africa."

## Wind of change ruffle Tanzania

By Frances Kerry  
Reuter

DAR ES SALAAM — Winds of change have gusted down from Eastern Europe to stir an unprecedented political debate in Socialist Tanzania.

The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party is discussing, publicly and for the first time, the possibility of a multi-party system.

A party symposium in late March on the lessons to be drawn from the popular revolts in Eastern Europe heard frank criticism and suggestions for change.

The broad consensus was that Tanzania's home-grown brand of Socialism need not go the way of East European Communism if the CCM stays in touch with the people, said party ideology secretary Kingunge Ngombale Mwira.

"It's important to draw certain lessons," he told Reuters.

"When you carry out a revolu-

tion in the name of the working people and then after 40 years those very people come out and denounce you, you must ask a lot of questions."

"The one-party system has a lot of weaknesses, because there are no challenges," he said.

One way of providing a challenge would be to allow single issue pressure groups such as youth, trade union and women's movements, Ngombale Mwira said.

But political opposition parties could not be ruled out.

"This debate will continue and if that is what people want, then there will have to be steps to allow other parties," the party ideology chief said.

The debate in the CCM began not as a result of popular clamour, street protests or strikes, but at the bidding of party chairman Julius Nyerere.

Nyerere led Tanzania to independence from Britain in 1961 and developed the CCM's ideolo-

gy of Socialism and self-reliance, but he stepped down as president in 1985.

"Tanzanians should not... believe that a one-party state is God's wish," said Nyerere said last month in a speech which opened the debate on political changes.

"It is now possible to have alternative parties if only to overcome problems related to complacency in a single-party system," he added.

Diplomatic sources said Nyerere, who has seen much of his economic thinking reversed by the market-oriented policies of his successor Ali Hassan Mwinyi, was clutching at the last of his ideals.

"Nyerere was badly shaken by events in East Europe, he's scared of seeing his life's work swept away," said one source.

Tanzania's readiness to discuss a multi-party system contrasts with the attitude of many other African countries, whose leaders say

they have nothing to learn from East Europe.

President Daniel Arap Moi in neighbouring Kenya said bluntly last month that Africa is not yet ready for multi-party politics.

But one diplomat said the debate in Tanzania was being orchestrated for appearance's sake and the CCM hardliners would not readily give up power.

"They are allowing this debate but they are not really going to take the lid off," he said.

"We don't need a multi-party system, that's very bourgeois," said Aikael Kwaka, a professor of development studies at Dar Es Salaam University who attended the CCM symposium.

"Opposition parties would just be run by foreigners wanting to interfere," he added.

Diplomats say the Tanzanian government has ruled without resorting to force to control its people and there are few political prisoners.

## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## Jordan's postal system — many gaps despite innovations

By Saeda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

OVER 100 million letters passed through the Jordanian Postal system last year. Facsimile system — "electronic mail" — was also introduced in 1989. However, the post office system in the Kingdom leaves a lot to be desired, particularly the distribution network, and there is also a chronic shortage of post office boxes — the only means to have an address to receive mail.

A combination of several factors, including undelivered mail, late deliveries, distant offices and the absence of a door-to-door delivery network, impart the impression of an inefficient, disorganised system to many people. But in reality, new techniques have been introduced and other innovations have been incorporated to formalise a healthy new system; yet many problems seem to linger, with no solution in the near future. Lack of funds is cited as one of the major contributors to the weaknesses in the system.

One of the most-heard complaints is that of the inevitable process of having to visit the post office every day to collect mail from the post box since there is no door-to-door delivery system.

"Just going to the post office is an effort by itself; no one can predict when letters arrive; I am obliged to take the trip every day when I am expecting an important letter... and this really bothers me," says Mohammad Atwa, owner of a small business. "I can spend the

daily half hour for better purposes."

Many others who share the same view appear resigned to accepting the situation and do not take the problem seriously, since they say they have "lost hope" for improved postal services, not only because of the absence of a personal delivery system but also of several other factors.

"I have little confidence in the local postal services," said a businessman who declined to be identified. "Often my letters do not arrive on time. Sometimes I end up with others' mail in my post box; it could happen to me too. Nowadays, I send all my mail under registered post and advise my clients to do the same when they send letters to me. It costs more, but is safer."

**One of the most-heard complaints is that of the inevitable process of having to visit the post office every day to collect mail from the post box since there is no door-to-door delivery system.**

Abdullah Al Jazi, secretary general of the Ministry of Communications and Transport, underlined the continued endeavours of the ministry to improve the system. "First of all, delay in delivering outward post is not our fault. The delay is on the other side — the countries of destination, and this was affirmed by a surprise inspection carried out by the International Post Union (IPU)."

Jazi also explained that the



Despite innovations and introduction of new techniques, the Jordanian postal system has a lot of gaps, particularly in terms mail deliveries (file photo)

absence of a door-to-door delivery system in Jordan owed its origins to the absence of clear street names and house numbers. "It is a very long process and a difficult one indeed," Jazi told the Jordan Times. "The ministry, together with Amman

for many. "It has been more than three months that I am trying to get a post office box but it seems useless; what I am trying to do now is to employ 'wasta' (connections) to make it succeed," was the comment of a resident of Wadi Seer.

The problem gets a new dimension when seen in light of the fact that there are over 110,000 post boxes in the Kingdom. In Amman alone, there are 31 post offices, in addition to 30 others in the capital's suburbs. The location of the post offices is based on an assessment of local population and their needs, according to Jazi. "There are also annual plans to open new post offices, but high rents seem to be an obstacle," he added.

Other people seem to have another problem with the postal system and its employees. If some of the criticism is levelled at what is described as laziness of postal workers, some others involve charges that letters are delivered opened or that postal staff read some of the mail before dispatch.

"Once it happened to me,"

said a woman who declined to be identified. "I left the post office after registering a letter. But, I forgot my car keys and had to go back to get them, and I found the clerk behind the counter reading my letter," she said.

Jazi said such complaints should be brought direct to his attention and promised immediate and prompt action against the concerned postal employee. "People should not hesitate to report such incidents," he said.

Another complaint, this time from those who use the main post office downtown, is the "chronic shortage" of change at the counters. It involves alleged short-changing.

"The counter staff, as a rule, claim they do not have small change, such as 10 fils," recounted an expatriate worker. "Every time you give him 200 fils for stamps worth 160 fils, you get 30 fils in change. What happens to the 10 fils? 'We do not have change,' is the answer. And if you persist, they will say 'take your 200 fils and return the stamp'."

## Indonesia toughens moves to curb raw rattan smuggling

By Kenneth L. Whiting  
The Associated Press

JAKARTA — The contraband was cleverly disguised as empty baskets — but alert customs agents were not fooled, and three shipping containers filled with loosely woven wicker baskets were impounded.

Unidentified culprits were accused of trying to sneak raw rattan out of Indonesia in the form of finished goods, which can be exported legally. Officials said the baskets were to be dismantled in another country and the rattan crafted into more valuable products.

Though this is rattan — not gold, diamonds or paintings by old masters — smugglers can't say they haven't been warned: "I may have to use the subversion law and threaten smugglers with the death penalty," Attorney General Sukartono Marmosud-jono said.

A government prosecutor demanded life imprisonment and a fine of 30 million rupiah (\$16,593) in the case of H.W. Ng, who was in charge with illegally exporting almost 2,000 tons of raw rattan to Hong Kong and Taiwan. Ng fled Indonesia before sentencing.

Indonesia's jungles produce more than 80 per cent of the

world's rattan, and the country once exported in huge quantities the great vines of the long flexible wood that grows wild.

Rattan — as well as reeds, and canes, dried grasses and other flexible materials such as twisted paper — are used to construct wicker furniture, baskets and other items.

But rattan, willow and bamboo are the most popular of these natural fibers, according to industry sources in Jakarta; and, after timber, rattan is the most important forest product in South-east Asia.

Indonesia made relatively little money from its rattan, though it enjoyed a near-monopoly, because it exported only the low-value raw material — not the finished furniture products.

Foreign manufacturers, chiefly in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, got the profits.

A ban was imposed on the export of all raw rattan in late 1986. A later decree specified that semi-processed vines and cane-webbing could leave the country only in the form of furniture or other finished products. Both the Philippines and Thailand had earlier taken similar measures in 1977. Malaysia did so last year.

The aim was to develop a

domestic furniture manufacture industry, and create jobs.

Similar methods were successfully used to force the growth of a domestic plywood industry. After a ban was imposed on the export of uncut hardwood logs in 1985, Indonesia became the world's leading source of plywood, and it hopes to do the same with rattan.

"At present, we are the world's biggest exporter of plywood, and in the near future it is hoped that this will be followed by the export of finished goods made of rattan, which is a natural resource possessed by few other countries," said President Suharto.

The European Community, the United States and others have criticised the ban, pointing out that Indonesia was a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which discourages non-tariff barriers.

Other critics said the ban was imposed before Indonesia established itself as a producer of quality finished products.

Heavy stockpiling of raw rattan before the ban was enforced and considerable smuggling since then, have given importers a few years breathing space. New sources of supply are also being developed in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

## Gambling is a religion in Australian outback

By Michael Perry  
Reuters

KALGOORLIE, Australia — His weathered hand clasping a fist full of dollars, Dave Sheehan leans back against the hot tin wall of his two-up gambling ring in the middle of the Australian outback.

In the centre of the ring it's a blistering 43 degrees Centigrade (109 Fahrenheit) as his son Dave tosses two coins high into the air. "It's never too hot to stop the game," says Dave Senior with a wry smile.

Two-up is a game in which gamblers bet on how two old pennies from Australia's pre-decimal currency days will land after being thrown into the air.

The coins are placed on a piece of wood, one showing the "tail" side and one showing the "head" side, and bets are placed on whether they will both land showing heads or tails.

In Australia gambling is regarded as a national pastime, but in this mining town in the heart of the Western Australian goldfields, it's more akin to a religion.

In 1983 when the two-up ring was briefly forced to close by

police, one old-time player who died had his ashes scattered over the ring. Another at the turn of the century had his mates toss the pennies on his coffin before covering it with dirt.

Situated in the middle of a hostile desert environment, not unlike Las Vegas, Kalgoorlie has always been driven by the lure of instant wealth.

"This place is rotten keen on gambling," said Geoff Brabazon, secretary of the Kalgoorlie/boulder racing club.

"It was founded by gamblers looking for gold and it's never changed," he said.

Dave Sheehan and his four sons, plus a silent partner, run the Kalgoorlie bush two-up school seven kilometres north of the town.

It's an incongruous site — a large circular tin shed with its roof cut out, surrounded by a fleet of cars and taxis in the middle of nowhere.

As the temperature soars, Dave's eldest son Bill rips a sheet of tin from the wall.

"There, a bit of air-conditioning," he laughs, as a swirl of dust and heat wrecks havoc with the

sheds of 50 and 100-dollar bills around the ring.

Despite its transient appearance the ring, which has operated in various locations in and around Kalgoorlie since the late 1800s when the town was the centre of the Australian goldrush, is an institution.

Tour buses turn off at the crudely-painted tin sign declaring "two-up" and make the journey along the bumpy dirt tracks that

**In Australia gambling is regarded as a national pastime, but in a mining town in the heart of the Western Australian goldfields, it's more akin to a religion. In 1983 when the two-up ring was briefly forced to close by police, one old-time player who died had his ashes scattered over the ring.**

lead to the ring.

But tourists are a minor distraction to Dave, whose calloused hands and gnarled feet testify to a lifetime in the goldfields, and the school's hardy regulars, who often travel the 600 kilometres from Perth for a week of gambling.

Two-up is a serious game where tens of thousands of dollars can change hands in an after-

noon.

"I wouldn't try talking to the boys when they're playing. Even I keep my mouth shut," said Dave, who was quite happy to chat, having already lost 1,000 dollars and pulled out of the game.

Dave became involved in running two-up after World War II, and for 37 years played a cat and mouse game with local police.

He would drive around town

ers died. "A lot of them lived alone in camps, either as widowers or bachelors, and the game gave them a sense of purpose," said Dave's youngest son Dan.

"Maybe the two-up's demise added a morose note to their existence and gave some of them little will to live," he said.

When the game was finally legalised it found a permanent home at Brown Hill, an oddly named spot as There's not a Hill in Sight.

Dave believes legality has improved the game.

"It's more ordered," he said. "And we now have women coming out here and they're good players — they don't mind betting big."

While the game has attracted its share of exotic characters, like Coffin Hat, Big Fred and Jack the Jew, it has always been run on a strict code of ethics: No alcohol or children at games, and no games on Good Friday, Christmas Day, during local race meetings or on pay day.

"We gotta let them take their money home to their wives," said Dave with a grin.

## Royal commission named

(Continued from page 1)

(writer); Akram Zuaiter (Upper House member and historian); Aida Muttalq (political activist from Irbid); Iyad Qattan (director of the Royal Cultural Centre and a writer); Deputies Abdullah Ensour (independent); Jamal Khreisba (independent); Saad Hail Shroor (independent); Ahmad Quteish Al Azaidah (Muslim Brotherhood); Mohammad Abu Olein (independent); Taher Al Masri (independent); Jamal Saraireh (Muslim sympathiser); professors Lahib Kamhawi, Sahhan Khleifat, Fawazi Gharabeh, Subhi Al Qasem, Adnan Al Bakhit and

Mohammad Kheir Mamser; writers and journalists Mohammad Ahmad Awad, Abdullah Al Malki, Sultan Hattah and Mahmoud Sherif; Abdul Salam Al Majali (former minister and ex-president of the University of Jordan); and Fawaz Abu Tayyeb (chief of protocol); Ali Subeimat (former minister and present mayor of Amman); Wahib Shaer (representative of the Unionist Democratic Party); Hosni Ayyesh (a liberal columnist and member of the Upper House of Parliament); Abdul Rahim Omar (poet and president of the Jordan Writers' Association); and Taher Hikmat (former minister and prominent lawyer).

## Peres pursues rightist support

(Continued from page 1)

The party advocates Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If Likud is not able to keep its own people," I think the National Religious Party... must start negotiating with the leader of the new government," Yigal Bibi of the party said Sunday.

The ultra-orthodox Shas and Degel Hatorah parties, who follow the guidelines of their elderly sages, also seemed likely to switch to backing Labour.

Peres has predicted that the Palestinian uprising would wane once a Labour-led government

starts the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

In interviews with two Hebrew dailies, Peres described the conflict with the Palestinians as Israel's "biggest burden," and pledged he would give the issue top priority.

Peres also predicted a peace process would prompt the Soviet Union to upgrade ties and allow direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights to expedite Jewish immigration.

Peres told the socialist Al Hamishmar daily that once his government is installed Israel would "give a positive answer" to Baker's proposals.

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## Brazil president, congress set for clash

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Despite warnings from President Fernando Collor de Mello, law makers seemed poised Sunday to drastically alter the new leader's anti-inflation shock therapy that has thrown people out of work.

Congress was scheduled to meet late Sunday and all day Monday to vote on Collor's three-week-old plan to fight hyperinflation that reached 4.850 per cent last year.

One of 10 items on the agenda is measure 168, considered the heart of the plan, which froze for 18 months assets of over \$1,200 in bank savings accounts and over \$600 in short-term money market deposits.

The move took about \$115 billion — 80 per cent of all bank deposits — out of circulation overnight, and while officials say inflation is coming down, the plan has put the economy on the brink of a major recession.

On Saturday, Representative Osmundo Reboucas of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, charged with reviewing measure 168, filed his report and suggested major changes.

Reboucas' proposal, which will be submitted to the full congress in place of Collor's original measure, would allow savings account withdrawals in installments of \$4,800 every third month beginning in July.

"This plan is a bomb. Any mistake will throw us into an inflationary explosion or a terrible recession," Reboucas said.

Reboucas' centre-left Democratic Movement Party is the largest in congress with 179 of 570 seats. Brazil's Communist Party and the leftist Workers Party also have condemned the package.

Five centrist parties holding a solid majority in the congress have demanded substantial changes to the plan by Collor, a member of the centre-right National Reconstruction Party, which holds just 24 congressional seats.

Collor, who announced the package March 16, one day after taking office as Brazil's first freely elected president in 29 years, warned Saturday that the bank freeze was non-negotiable and crucial to defeating inflation.

"We have already liquidated inflation. Now, I wish to be partners in the success of the plan because I won't be a partner in tragedy if the plan is altered," he said during a visit to his home state of Alagoas on Brazil's northeastern Atlantic coast.

Collor said the ceiling of \$1,200 on bank withdrawals was not "picked out of the air" but selected by economists after detailed studies.

"There is no return from the plan. Our ships have been burned, and now we either win or we lose," he said.

Collor instituted the plan, which also included a 30-day price freeze and a new national currency, with a series of 26 "provisional measures." The measures become law immediately but can be voted down by congress within 30 days.

Legislators, who thus far have passed four measures intact and eight with minor modifications, are expected to vote on the entire package by mid-week, as the 90-day deadline is nearing and Friday is a national holiday for Easter.

If Reboucas' proposal is passed, Collor can veto it. But congress can overturn the veto with a simple majority.

Most congressmen are up for re-election this fall, and many are worried that if they support Collor's plan they will lose their jobs in the event of a recession — which now seems imminent.

Half of Sao Paulo state's 370,000 auto workers are on enforced collective holiday, union groups say some 200,000 workers have been fired nationwide — with huge lines forming at unemployment offices in major cities all last week — and major companies forced to borrow from banks to pay salaries.

"If the government doesn't inject money into the economy we won't have a recession, but a disaster," said Luiz Antonio de Medeiros, president of the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, and considered a moderate.

Others fear an economic disaster, whatever congress does.

"We will see a brutal recession if congress doesn't lift the ceiling on bank withdrawals. But I fear a run on the banks that will provoke a hyperinflation if they do," said Alexandre Barros, a consultant to local and multinational businessmen.

## Soviet Union, East Europe to support private property

BONN (R) — Moscow and its reformist allies, in a move unthinkable only months ago, have accepted an international accord committing them to back private property, free enterprise and multi-party democracy, delegates to an East-West economic conference said Monday.

The pledges were contained in a draft final document agreed by 35 nations attending a conference on economic cooperation in Europe, which has been meeting here since March.

The document, submitted by six neutral countries on Monday, was based largely on proposals from the European Community (EC) and the United States.

Although not legally binding, it represents a formal commitment by the reformist Communist countries to step further down the path of Western-style free markets and make their currencies convertible.

"Fifteen months ago you couldn't even have got close to such a document," a Western delegate said.

Officials and businessmen from the United States, Canada and all European countries except Albania are attending the conference, which ends Wednesday.

The meeting is an offshoot of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) launched by the 1975 Helsinki Accords on human rights and East-West relations.

"The document now agreed acknowledges the relationship between political pluralism and market economies," said Irish Industry and Commerce Minister Desmond O'Malley, addressing the conference on behalf of the 12-nation EC.

"We now agree to pursue market principles and have specified how these are to be implemented — through provision of more complete economic and commercial information, through promotion of direct business contacts,

through the free flow of trade, capital and investment and by ensuring that market conditions in our countries actually stimulate business enterprise."

The draft, which could still be altered slightly, states that all 35 countries "recognise that democratic institutions and economic freedom foster economic and social progress."

"Participating states... recognise that the performance of market-based economies relies primarily on the freedom of individual enterprise... (and) believe that economic freedom for the individual includes the right freely to own, buy, sell and otherwise utilise property," it adds.

The document was produced after intensive negotiations between Eastern and Western delegates throughout the weekend.

Washington succeeded in having almost all of the points it made in a set of "Bonn principles for economic cooperation" included in the document, starting with a commitment to "multi-party democracy based on free, periodic and genuine elections."

But the United States also made concessions in order to win the support of the Soviet Union. These included toning down a commitment to private property and a call for unrestricted capital flow in favour of a commitment to expand "the free flow of trade, capital, investment and repatriation of profits in convertible currencies."

Delegates said a pledge to pursue "policies that promote social justice and improve living and working conditions" was inserted partly at the insistence of the Soviet Union.

The final document is divided into four sections: Development and diversification of economic relations, industrial cooperation, cooperation in specific areas (such as energy and the environment) and monetary and financial aspects.

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India has long been accused of unfair trade practices and insisting on transfer of modern technology as a precondition for foreign investments. It is now offering liberalised conditions for foreign investors.

## India pledges more liberal foreign investment climate

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Prasad Singh said Monday his government would promote a more liberal climate for foreign investment and free industry from bureaucratic controls.

Addressing a World Economic Forum meeting on India, Singh said his country's foreign investment policy "is not implemented as smoothly and transparently as it should be. Procedures are dilatory and there are unnecessary delays."

"We recognise that foreign investment can make an important contribution in our effort to modernise our industry, make it more competitive internationally, and give it marketing links in highly competitive world markets," he said.

In his first major address to the business community since assuming office in December, Singh said the government was considering raising the ceiling on foreign equity from 40 per cent for high-technology and export-oriented ventures.

The government would also approve "on a near automatic basis" projects with less than 40 per cent foreign equity," he said.

Foreign investment in India,

which edged up to \$188 million in 1989 from 160 million the previous year, was still much smaller than the economy could absorb, mostly because of red tape, he said.

The United States, which last May branded India as an unfair trader section 301 of its omnibus trade act, has long complained about India's investment climate.

Washington says India must negotiate trade complaints by a June 16 deadline or face sanctions. India has so far refused to do so.

Singh also said the government was trying to unshackle bureaucratic controls on industry and simplify industrial licensing.

"Our past experience shows these regulations do not achieve the objective for which they were introduced. Instead, they encourage delay and inefficiency and also become a source of corruption."

"Very often these controls have been used by vested interests to perpetuate monopoly and restrict competition."

He said the government's main economic priority was developing rural areas, where the vast majority of India's 820 million people live.

"There is a market of around 100 million consumers in India who have surplus purchasing power," the prime minister said. "This is a large market and an important positive factor in assessing India's industrial prospects. It can be made very much larger if rural prosperity can be increased."

Singh's predecessor Rajiv Gandhi first took India on the path of liberalisation in 1985, and Singh said deregulation would continue and the government would keep the tax structure as simple as possible.

Corporate tax rates in the 1990/91 budget (April-March) were reduced to an average of 40 per cent from 50 per cent.

Singh said the new trade policy announced March 30 greatly reduced import duties on capital goods needed by exporters, and the government was moving to a regime of fiscal controls rather than import quotas.

"Indian industry has now come of age and should be able to compete with lower rates of duty protection. Reduced levels of protection will reduce our domestic costs of production making our products more competitive internationally," Singh said.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, April 9, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	French franc
Pound sterling	1098.4	1105.0	117.8
Deutsche mark	395.9	398.3	118.5
Swiss franc	447.3	450.0	428.2
			351.6
			353.7
			109.4
			110.1
			53.9
			54.2
			191.6
			192.7

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.6390/6400	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1630/40	Canadian dollar	
	1.6903/10	Deutsche marks	
	1.9005/15	Deutsche guilders	
	1.4948/55	Swiss francs	
	34.93/98	Belgian francs	
	5.6780/8830	French francs	
	1242/1243	Italian lire	
	156.90/157.00	Japanese yen	
	6.1280/1340	Swedish crowns	
	6.5490/5540	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4625/75	Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	
One ounce of gold	378.70/379.10		

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market closed firmer on the Tokyo market's strong performance and renewed interest from overseas. The All-Ordinaries ended 15.3 up at 1,528.2.

TOKYO — Share prices rose sharply in active trade on a stronger yen after a Group of Seven nations (G-7) meeting on Saturday agreed to prop up the currency. The Nikkei surged 1,119.15 to 30,397.93.

HONG KONG — Prices of Hong Kong blue chips closed fractionally easier after a day of featureless trading with no news in the pipeline. The Hang Seng closed down 1.38 at 2,954.74.

SINGAPORE — Share prices were weaker across the board on reduced volume despite a gain on Tokyo's Nikkei index. The Straits Times Index shed 2.50 points to end at 1,505.80.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower in sluggish, directionless trading. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index shed 0.77 points to end at 769.97.

FRANKFURT — Share prices fell sharply across the board in very light trading. The Dax Index closed 23.98 points, or 1.2 pct, lower, at 1,923.86.

PARIS — The Paris bourse ended at a record high for the third successive session in strong demand from foreign investors for blue chips such as Peugeot and Thomson. The CAC-40 index ended at 2,083.90.

ZURICH — Swiss shares edged lower on selected profit taking in the second half. The SPI Index closed 2.4 points lower at 1,081.9.

LONDON — Shares secured narrow gains in late trading as the market gleaned support from gains in Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average. The FTSE was up 6.6 at 2,227.7.

NEW YORK — Special situations stood out in a moderately higher but thinly traded market. The Dow was ahead six at about 2,723 after rising to 2,739 before mild profit-taking set in.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 10, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Make whatever articles of apparel or furnishing about you in good condition so that your whole surroundings are much more attractive. Seize the chance to organize the future.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Today consider your financial position and how it can be improved, you are under good influence to enjoy social companions you like.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Get your appearance and your health in good condition in the morning, then in the evening study more practical ways to make your dreams come true.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Discuss with attachment the down to earth ways to better succeed today, then in the evening you can go out on the town, have a wonderful time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Consult with friends and acquaintances how best to make social affairs work out to your mutual advantage, then enjoy your attachment.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out early to make arrangements for future activities in the outside world and later your more personal future desires.

**VERGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Consider well the various new ambitions which most activate you,

then you will be able to get out in the world of pleasure and activity. **LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind concerning getting rid of promises made can be quickly accomplished now, then you will be able to be off to new pleasures.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Today contact associates and partners to make some definite arrangements with them after which you can have a very happy romantic evening.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Much work can be very well achieved by you in the morning by just pitching in and doing it, then in the evening get off to whatever you wish in do in public.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Plan the routine pleasures you want to engage in during coming evening; spend the day with those you work with side-by-side.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Do what is necessary at your residence to make conditions as you wish them to be there, after which get out tonight where you can have a ball.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) This is the day and evening for you to make sure you do find out what your family wants you to do and then do it in a gracious and cordial fashion.

## THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- 1 Precious
- 5 Escapade
- 10 Whims
- 14 Farm unit
- 15 — donna
- 16 Grade
- 17 Pretense
- 18 Hindu queens
- 19 "Baked in —"
- 20 Timely salute
- 22 Name of saint
- 24 Faction
- 25 Hue
- 28 Borders on
- 31 Start of a colloquy
- 32 W. city
- 34 A Carter
- 37 Name of saint
- 40 Scallion
- 41 Calf patrons
- 42 Shamrock
- 43 "The"
- 44 Below
- 45 Coal out
- 47 Actor Richard
- 49 End of salute
- 56 Mineral vein
- 57 Pain
- 58 Fr. town
- 59 Rabbit
- 60 Harlequin
- 61 Burden
- 62 Withered
- 63 Public mael
- 64 Designate

DOWN

- 1 Spurt
- 2 Reverberate
- 3 Russ. inland sea
- 4 Memory jogger
- 5 Small fish
- 6 Entreats
- 7 "Out, wild"
- 8 Arable little
- 9 Relax
- 10 Certain
- 11 Quick
- 12 Threeloid
- 13 Rudder
- 14 Support
- 15 Billy —
- 16 Williams
- 17 — Park, CO
- 18 Celestial body
- 19 Absorb
- 20 Under the covers
- 21 Yearning
- 22 Whining
- 23 sound
- 24 Las Enlas —
- 25 Actor O'Neal
- 26 Entr'
- 27 Intermission
- 28 Surrounded by
- 29 Mother of toil
- 30 Fr. river
- 31 Lasso
- 32 Poet of 70
- 33 Slick
- 34 together
- 35 Labor union
- 36 letters
- 37 Night sound
- 38 Stranger
- 39 Come in
- 40 Silly ones
- 41 Priestly garments
- 42 Experts
- 43 Harbor
- 44 Kind of 122
- 45 Sicilian volcano
- 46 Astington
- 47 American Beauty

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- 44 Kind of 122
- 45 Sicilian volcano
- 46 Astington
- 47 American Beauty

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I want Stanley to nibble on my neck. So I'm gluing peppercorn on it."

## JUMBLE. That Scrambled Word Game

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOANN

SHOWE

FOTEEF

TALMED

Answer here: HE

Yesterday's Jumbles: VAPOR ENJOY JAGGED BOVISH

Answer: What to say when your friendly skeleton leaves on vacation — BONE VOYAGE

## Navratilova beats Capriati

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP) — Martina Navratilova won the battle of tennis' old and new generations Sunday, beating 14-year-old American phenomenon Jennifer Capriati 6-2, 6-4 to win the Family Circle Cup.

It was the 150th career singles win for the 33-year-old Navratilova, who won seven of those tournaments before her 14-year-old opponent was even born.

Navratilova won the match with crisp net shots and by using her serve-and-volley attack on the green clay at the Sea Pines Racquet Club.

Capriati, who was just two years old when Navratilova earned her first grand slam title in 1978, struggled with her serve and rushed her shots when Navratilova came to the net.

Capriati was playing in just her third tournament since turning pro last month. She is now 13-3 and her loss to Navratilova, ranked second in the world, makes her 3-2 against players in the top 10.

Despite the loss, Capriati is

now 25th when she received her first world ranking Monday, having now played the required three tournaments.

Navratilova, who has now won four Family Circle titles, earned \$100,000 and a Mazda Miata automobile. Capriati took home \$40,000 — more than she has won so far in her career.

Capriati struggled for all but one game on her serve. She faced break points in three of her four service games in the first set. In the second set, Capriati faced break point in all but one of her five service games.

Although she got in just over half her first serves, the top-seeded Navratilova faced just three break points all day in running her match record this year to 21-1.

Navratilova had two break points against Capriati in the first game and led 30-0 in the third game. Each time, Capriati managed to hold serve. But Navratilova went up a break in the fifth game when she hit a deep forehand that Capriati could not return.

Capriati had a chance to get the break back in the following game, but Navratilova slammed two straight service winners and hit a forehand down the line to go up 4-2. Navratilova broke Capriati in the next game and then held serve at love to win the set.

Capriati continued to struggle with her serve in the second game, but she managed to avoid a break.

Navratilova had a service winner on her second serve in the next game to wipe out a break point and held her serve to go up 4-2. She had a chance to break Capriati and win the match two games later, but Capriati rifled a cross-court backhand at the net to delay the inevitable.

Navratilova won the match with a forehand that landed on the tape near the service line. The linesman called the ball out, but the chair umpire overruled her. Capriati agreed that the shot had been in.

A capacity crowd of 5,500 watched the finals on a sunny afternoon.

## Italy will stop World Cup hooligans at border

ROME (Agencies) — Soccer hooligans will be identified in advance and stopped at Italy's frontiers before the World Cup soccer finals this summer, a senior interior ministry official said in an interview Monday.

"We will be able to kick out the undesirables at the border for reasons of public order," Giancarlo Ruffino, the ministry's undersecretary, told the Rome daily Il Tempo.

The interior ministry is in charge of security for the World Cup.

Ruffino said authorities would make full use of a public security law and strict new regulations on immigration.

"We know that the most violent are 300 to 400 strong," Ruffino said.

He said the security operation would start outside Italy with aid from police forces in 23 other participating countries and would continue with preventive measures at arrival, mainly in Genoa where English and Dutch fans are expected on their way to Sardinia, venue for England's first round games, and the Netherlands' base in Sicily.

The English and Dutch supporters are considered the most likely to create trouble during the competition.

On match days, stadiums would be ringed by police cordons at least 50 metres from the gates and only fans with tickets

would be allowed to pass, Ruffino said.

In the meantime, the head of the World Cup organising committee says the damaged turf of Milan's Meazza stadium must be replaced by the kickoff of the competition on June 8.

"I can't see any alternative," Luca Di Montezemolo was quoted as saying by Milan's sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport Monday.

He refused to comment on published reports that the opening match between Argentina and Cameroon, scheduled in Milan, may be moved to the newly-built stadium of Turin because of the poor condition of the Meazza turf.

Montezemolo has often criticised delays in remodelling World Cup stadiums. But in the interview he said there has been "an excess of alarmism" about cup preparations.

"The situation is very good in most World Cup venues," he declared.

Last week top officials of FIFA, the international soccer federation, deplored delays in preparing the stadiums in Milan, Naples, Florence and Rome.

Milan's city officials are expected to approve Tuesday a 200 million lire (\$154,000) investment to resod the entire field of the Meazza stadium, the homefield of A.C. Milan and Internazionale.

## Faldo wins Masters

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Nick Faldo of England became only the second man to win consecutive Masters titles, beating American Ray Floyd on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff Sunday.

Faldo, who beat Scott Hoch on the 11th hole of playoff last year, duplicated that feat to join Jack Nicklaus as the only winner of successive Masters. He was helped greatly by Floyd, who missed a makeable birdie putt on the first playoff hole, then put his second shot in the water on no. 11.

The Englishman made par on the 11th, turned to shake Floyd's hand and then hugged his female caddy.

Faldo had to rally from a terrible start. He put his second shot in a bunker on the first hole, came out weakly and then three-putted for double bogey that dropped him five shots behind.

But he climbed back to get into the playoff with Floyd, who, at 47, was seeking to become the oldest player to win the Masters. Floyd was victorious here in 1976.

Nicklaus, now a 50-year-old grandfather, won the Masters in 1965-66.

To match those consecutive triumphs, Faldo had to climb out of a tie with Nicklaus and then make up three strokes on Floyd on the last four holes.

All of that he accomplished. He came back from the potential devastation of the first-hole double bogey, climbed back into contention and caught the front-running Floyd on the 17th hole.

Both finished regulation play at 10-under-par 278. Faldo had a closing round of par 72. Faldo displayed enormous patience and perseverance in a comeback 69.

On the first playoff hole, the 10th Augusta National, Faldo put his approach into a bunker on the right and Floyd threw his some 15 feet below the cup.

Faldo's excellent sand shot

came out some three feet below the cup. When Floyd left his birdie putt short, Faldo calmly rapped in his shorter effort and they went on to the 11th.

From the fairway, Floyd aggressively attacked the flag, tucked on the left near a pond. He pulled it. Just a hit. Just enough.

Water splashed. In effect, it was over.

Faldo went through the formality of playing his second safely to the green. After Floyd dropped and pitched short, Faldo two-putted for the winning par.

"I made history today," he said.

He also renewed the European's claim to world golf superiority, a claim supported by their 1985 and '87 Ryder Cup victories and a cup-retaining tie last year. And by the fact they have won six of the last 11 Masters.

And chilly water of the 11th-hole pond, along with Faldo's undeniable rally, shattered the lovely mood of nostalgia that prevailed until the very end.

For more than two days, Floyd and Nicklaus, 97 years in combined age and with a Masters history covering 58 appearances, treated the enormous gallery to the spectacle of old heroes doing the old things in the old places.

But the treat didn't last quite three days.

In the end, just as the sunlight began to fade in the Georgia pines, so too did the old heroes.

First, it was Nicklaus, the best of them all, holder of six Masters crowns and 18 major titles overall.

Now 50, he tried to use a rejuvenating victory in his first start on the Seniors tour a week ago as the springboard back to his youth.

It almost worked. At one point on the front side, he shared second place.

Could he make it happen?

Nicklaus tried. He tried mightily. But the shots didn't quite come off. The putts just missed. He couldn't make up ground. On the back side, with the holes running out and Floyd's lead growing, he began to gamble.

And he paid the price. Nicklaus bogeyed three of four holes and three-putted for par on the other, a string that sent him spiralling back into the pack.

The three-putt par on 15 killed any hopes he had. Needing the minor miracle of an eagle, he charged a 30-foot eagle putt and missed. When his 10-footer coming back also failed, his last chance was gone.

He could only watch Faldo, his playing partner, continue an inexorable move at Floyd, who was playing behind them.

Floyd was three in front with four to go. Faldo ran in a six-foot birdie putt on the 15th and cut it to two.

Obviously full of confidence, Floyd just smiled when he missed from about eight feet on the same green moments later.

On the 16th, Floyd was on the tee when Faldo ran in a 20-footer and cut the margin to one. He remained undisturbed, but put his tee shot in a difficult place and had to run a long putt up, over and around a ridge to get it close. He did, and cheerfully applauded himself when he did so. He made the par putt that kept him in front, barely.

On the 17th, though, that smile disappeared. After Faldo made par, Floyd again found himself with a long, breaking, up-and-down putt. This time he three-putted, missing a six-foot second putt.

Now they were tied.

After Faldo parred the 18th, the pressure was on Floyd to force the playoff. He drove into a deep fairway bunker on the left. From there, he hit into a green-side bunker on the right.

## Gilbert takes Orlando title

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Top-seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States needed just 50 minutes to defeat Christo Van Rensburg of South Africa 6-2, 6-1 Sunday to win the Prudential-Bache Securities Classic.

Gilbert, who earned \$32,400 for his second tournament championship of the year, won 54 of 79 points and surrendered just 10 points on his serve. Van Rensburg never got to break point.

"I played my best match of the tournament," said Gilbert, the world's fifth-ranked player who has won all five of his career meetings against Van Rensburg. "I think it was just matchups. I match up well against Christo. He didn't have a big enough serve to hurt me on the return game."

Van Rensburg, who earned \$19,050, said physical problems might have been a factor in his loss. After a three-set semifinal victory over David Pate Saturday, Van Rensburg began suffering cramps and was hospitalized for three hours. He felt better on Sunday, but still wasn't in top form.

"I felt a little dizzy when I came toward the net, so that changed my game a bit," said

Van Rensburg, ranked 31st in the world. "I just couldn't find my feet. I was a half-step slower than I had been all week."

"But really, I think he played pretty well. When you can't put pressure on a guy like Brad, that makes it really tough. He just relaxes and gets into the game. I would've liked to gotten a better start. Maybe that would've helped," he added.

Gilbert, who is 15-0 after winning the first set in matches this year, took control after breaking at love in the sixth game. Van Rensburg would hold to begin the first set, but his serve was broken the next three times.

"I was able to hit returns low at his feet," Gilbert said. "That seemed to bother him. I play to my opponent. Guys on the circuit don't really understand my game, and that helps me."

In other games, local favourite Ricbey Renberg defeated second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 6-4, 6-4 Sunday in the American Capital Invitational tennis tournament at River Oaks.

Repeberg became the first Houston area player to win at River Oaks since Frank Guernsey prevailed in 1939.

## U.S. soccer team beats Iceland 4-1

FENTON, Missouri (AP) — The U.S. soccer team got a victory and even created a little excitement Sunday.

The Americans beat Iceland 4-1 in a World Cup tuneup, the most goals for the United States since a 5-1 victory over Jamaica in a World Cup qualifier on Aug. 13, 1988.

"The American public needs touchdowns, home runs, holes in one," said Bruce Murray, who scored a second-half goal. "That was good today, and we need to keep executing, keep doing the right things."

Eric Wynalda scored two first-half goals for the U.S. team, preparing for its first World Cup appearance in 40 years.

"We've had a lot of work on finishing the play, and that's what we did today," Wynalda said. "I could have had another one and so could have Bruce Murray."

The United States scored only six goals in eight World Cup qualifiers last year. At one point the American went 239 consecutive minutes without a goal.

"They were much better than we expected," Iceland coach Bo Johansson said. "They play in a very quick and technical way. They were especially strong in the air."

The U.S. team, which scored three goals on headers, took a 3-0 lead in the first half while outshooting Iceland 11-3. And the Americans did it without three of their top goal threats: Peter Vermes, Chris Sullivan and Hugo Perez. Vermes and Sullivan are playing for European clubs and Perez has a broken leg.

The U.S. team is 3-5 in its exhibition schedule with five international games remaining. The Americans open World Cup play June 10 against Czechoslovakia at Florence, Italy.

Iceland was missing 12 of its top players.

Steve Trittschuh got the first goal on a header in the 16th minute. Murray set up the play when he kept the ball alive near the Iceland goal with a left-footed kick. The ball ticked off a defender and Trittschuh beat goalkeeper Bjarni Sigurdsson from about six yards.

Wynalda made it 2-0 in the 30th minute when he banged the ball in off the far post with a header after a throw-in by John Stollmeyer.

## Rainey wins U.S. Grand Prix race

MONTEREY, California (AP) — For the second year in a row, Wayne Rainey won the U.S. Grand Prix for motorcycles at the 2.2 mile (3.5) kilometre road course, but Kevin Schwantz didn't make it easy.

"He was throwing everything he had at me," said Rainey of his Suzuki-mounted rival. "And I was trying to give it right back."

Sunday's race started with Rainey leaping to the front, but after just two laps, Australian Kevin Magee crashed his Suzuki in turn 6. The race was stopped while he was taken to San Jose Medical Centre, where he required surgery for a blood clot on his brain.

He was placed in the intensive care unit after the operation and was in critical but stable condition, said nursing supervisor Donna Reamann.

Rainey was dogged by Schwantz for 24 of the race's 35 laps. But on that lap, as Schwantz tried yet another bid to reel in Rainey, he lost control in tight turn 11 and crashed.

Schwantz tried to restart his bike, but finally gave up and walked slowly off the track, in obvious pain.

Schwantz's crash handed second place, 30.386 seconds back, to Michael Doohan of Australia on a Rothmans Honda.

Third was Pierfrancesco Chili of Italy on a factory Honda, while fourth went to Christian Sarron of France on a Yamaha. Jean-Philippe Ruggia of France finished fifth on another Yamaha.

By the time the race ended, the three-day meet had knocked out the sport's leading lights, and at least one of them won't be back for a while.

Start with Friday, when defending champion Eddie Lawson's brakes failed as he tried to slow for the hairpin turn 3. He was hospitalised with a crushed right heel and team Kenny Roberts' medical officer, Dean Miller, said it's likely he'll be out for five to eight weeks.

That means Lawson will miss the next round, in Spain, and likely the Italian round also.

Schwantz was taken to Monterey Community Hospital for examination of his left wrist.

Another casualty, for the second year in a row, was Australian Wayne Gardner, the 1987 champion. On the restart, he came off his Honda in the same place where Magee fell.

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## Greek conservative party forms necessary parliament majority

**ATHENS (AP) —** Conservative Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis declared victory Monday and said he will form a government this week although election returns showed he was one seat short of a majority.

Election officials said the New Democracy Party had won 150 seats Sunday in the 300-member single-chamber parliament.

With one seat short of a majority, Mitsotakis met with the leader of the Democratic Renewal Party, Costis Stephanopoulos, in his effort to become the next premier.

Following a 30-minute meeting with Mitsotakis, Stephanopoulos announced that his conservative group which won one seat, would support New Democracy in order to give it the necessary 151 seats for a majority in parliament.

Stephanopoulos, a former member of New Democracy, broke away from the party four years ago following a squabble with Mitsotakis.

Mitsotakis had expressed confidence at an early morning post-election news conference that he

could form a government but gave no indication at the time that he would approach Stephanopoulos and seek his support.

"In today's elections the Greek people decided. They gave the victory to New Democracy. In my view, with 150 seats we can form a government, and we will win the approval of parliament," Mitsotakis said.

Stephanopoulos' support will end 10 months of political deadlock that has left Greece unable to cope with a crumbling economy and growing urban terrorism.

But Mitsotakis must first get the nod to form a government from President Christos Sartzetakis.

Party officials said he would meet with Sartzetakis Tuesday and announce the composition of his cabinet the following day.

A New Democracy press spokesman said Mitsotakis would seek a vote of confidence when parliament officially convenes on April 23.

The conservatives fell just short of winning a majority in the inconclusive elections last June and November. To win a majority Sunday New Democracy needed to get about 1 per cent more than the 46.19 per cent of the vote they won in November.

The Interior Ministry said that returns were still missing from 20 of the 16,584 polling stations but the unreported results would not affect the outcome.

The official returns showed New Democracy with 46.89 per cent of the vote, Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) had 38.62 per cent for 123 seats in parliament and the Communist-led alliance of leftist parties had 10.28 per cent and 19 places. Small parties and independents took 3.21 per cent to top the remaining eight seats.

The Socialists and Communists, blocked from forming a coalition of their own by New

Democracy's 150 seats, remained united in their opposition to conservative plans to remedy the ailing economy.

"We will defend the vested interests of the Greek people," said Pasok leader and former Premier Andreas Papandreu, who did not concede defeat early Monday. "Pasok will wage its battle both inside and outside of parliament."

Harilaos Florakis, president of the Communist-led Coalition of the Left and Progress, said, "the coalition has the strength to overturn any one-sided austerity measures aimed at the working people."

Both the brief conservative-Communist coalition government formed after the June election and the all-party coalition forged after the November polls postponed key decisions on the ever-widening budget deficit and an inflation rate that touched 17.8 per cent last month.

Mitsotakis has pledged to curb government spending, increase revenues and attract foreign investment.

## Conservatives dominate Hungarian parliament

**BUDAPEST (R) —** Conservatives swept to power in Hungary's first freely-elected parliament Monday, with the ruling Socialists far behind in fourth place.

In a decisive second round of parliamentary polling Sunday, the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) won a landslide victory over its nearest rival, the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance of Free Democrats.

The result confirmed a strong anti-leftist mood clear from elections in Poland and East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria also have dates with democracy in May and June.

HDF President Jozsef Antall, a 58-year-old museum director regarded as certain to become prime minister, told a news conference Monday he hoped to form a governing coalition with two smaller conservative parties within a month.

"The results indicate that the Hungarian population has opted for the election alliance set up by the Forum, the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Christian Democratic People's Party (CDPP)," he said.

Preliminary results gave the Forum 165 seats in the 386-seat National Assembly against 92 for the Free Democrats, 43 for the Smallholders and 21 for the CDPP.

The ruling Socialist Party of outgoing Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, founded last October to succeed in Communist Party, won just 35 seats although its leaders were responsible for dismantling Hungary's one-party system.

The Federation of Young Democrats, a radical youth party, came joint fifth with 21 seats. Independents, joint candidates and the Agrarian Alliance took the remaining 11 seats.

## Filipino troops hunt escaped coup leader

**MANILA (R) —** Philippine security forces spread out a dragnet across Manila Monday in a hunt for alleged coup leader Billy Bibit, and rebel soldiers called his prison escape a big boost to their efforts to oust President Corazon Aquino.

The military tightened security in stockades, ran a headcount of prisoners and curtailed visits to prevent any further escape of rebel soldiers who nearly toppled Aquino in a coup attempt last December.

"We have sent our agents to different places. There are several areas where we are concentrating in and I hope we can get Bibit," said Brigadier-General Mariano Filart, chief of the Paramilitary Constabulary's Capital Command.

Filart appealed to the public for information on Bibit's whereabouts. "Let us help each other because for as long as the leadership of those who attempted the coup are out we will not have any peace," Filart said in a radio interview.

Black-hooded rebel soldiers shot their way into Manila's main jail before dawn Sunday and released Bibit. They surprised guards who were drinking beer,

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 4 British soldiers killed in blast

**BELFAST (R) —** Four British soldiers were killed Monday when an IRA mine blew their heavily-armoured Land Rover off a country lane in the bloodiest guerrilla attack of the year in Northern Ireland. The blast hurled the patrol vehicle into the air, tossed it over a hedge and 30 metres into a field. The four men in the locally recruited Ulster Defence Regiment died trapped inside the mangled wreckage which was "crushed like a sardine can," an army spokesman said. A huge crater marked the spot where the mine was detonated on a country road near Downpatrick Racecourse in County Down. "It was a scene of utter carnage," said a local photographer who arrived shortly afterwards. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility for the blast in a statement to the media from its "South Down Brigade." The four soldiers were in the second of two land rovers heading to Downpatrick. The other soldiers on the patrol were treated for shock, police said. Initial reports had indicated that both vehicles were hit by the mine.

### Vietnam to repatriate MIA remains

**BANGKOK (AP) —** Vietnam Tuesday will turn over to the United States the remains of 10 persons who may have been Americans who fought and died in the Vietnam War, the U.S. embassy spokesman said Monday. A U.S. military team will fly to Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, to receive the remains in a brief airport ceremony, embassy spokesman James H. Williams said. The remains are to be flown to Hawaii for evaluation and positive identification at the U.S. military's Central Identification Laboratory in Honolulu. Vietnam has periodically turned over the remains of Americans missing in action, or MIAs, and cooperation between the two countries to resolve the issue has increased in recent years. The United States currently lists 2,303 MIAs, including 6,678 in Vietnam, 537 in Laos, 82 in Cambodia and six in Chinese coastal waters. The last turnover of remains by Vietnam took place last Sept. 11 when three sets of remains were repatriated. In a separate development, Vietnamese officials privately suggested allowing the U.S. military to return to Cam Ranh Bay if relations between the countries continue to warm, says a U.S. congressman who recently met with them. Congressman Thomas Ridge, said the extraordinary possibility was raised informally at a forum in Bali, Indonesia, attended by several congressmen and a group of top-ranking officials of Vietnam's Communist government.

### Mandela meets exiled ANC leaders

**LUSAKA (R) —** Nelson Mandela began talks with exiled leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) at a secret venue in Zambia Monday. "They are not going to tell anyone where they are meeting. The talks started today and they need peace for their discussions," ANC spokesman Tom Sebina said. Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, arrived in Lusaka Sunday for a two-day visit and immediately briefed Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on events in South Africa. The ANC, the main guerrilla group fighting to end apartheid in South Africa, is due to hold talks with the white-led government next month.

## COLUMN

### Neil Sedaka hospitalized

**DANBURY, Connecticut (AP) —** Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka has been admitted to Danbury Hospital for treatment of diverticulitis, a hospital spokesman said. Spokesman John Morgan said Sedaka, 51, is considering surgery to alleviate the intestinal inflammation. Sedaka, a singer-composer who first reached fame in the 1950s, has written and recorded dozens of popular songs including "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do," "Calendar Girl" and "Stupid Cupid."

### Forbidden Planet, Racing Demon win top awards

**LONDON (AP) —** A rock-and-roll version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and a drama about four south London clergymen were named the British theatre season's best musical and play at the Laurence Olivier Awards. Bob Carlton's Return to the Forbidden Planet was the unexpected victor over the Favourite. Miss Saigon in the musical category. But the latter, a lavish Broadway-bound musical about the Vietnam war, won the awards for outstanding musical action (Jonathan Pryce) and actress (Lea Salonga). David Hare's Racing Demon, at the Royal National Theatre, was named best play. His London win contrasted last fall of his play The Secret Rapture, which proved a fast flop. Racing Demon also took the Best Actor prize for Oliver Ford Davies as the doubting priest, Lionel Espy. Davies' win surprised insiders who expected the prize to go to Ian McKellen for both Othello and Bent. The annual awards, named for the late actor Lord Olivier, were announced in a nationally televised, black-tie ceremony at the Dominion Theatre.

### Murder in U.S. up 4% in 1989

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** The number of murders in the United States increased 4 per cent last year, up from the 3 per cent rise the year before, according to FBI statistics. Overall, violent crimes increased 5 per cent while property crimes rose 2 per cent and the overall number of serious crimes increased 3 per cent, according to the figures released Sunday by FBI Director William S. Sessions. The statistics are based on reports to police of crime index offenses: Murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

### Pupils silenced with acupuncture needle

**PEKING (R) —** A Chinese teacher has developed a new acupuncture technique to deal with intolerably noisy pupils, a Shanghai newspaper reported. He says their lips together. "From today on, anyone speaking in class will get their mouths sewn up like these two," declared teacher Wang Canzhao after putting acupuncture needles through the lips of two nine-year-old pupils in a school in Jiangsu province. Their parents complained, the Shanghai Xinhua Evening News reported Sunday, and Wang was dismissed.

### In Britain, the rich got richer

**LONDON (R) —** Queen Elizabeth reinforced her position as Britain's richest person by increasing her personal fortune to \$6.7 billion (\$11 billion) over the past year, according to a survey published Sunday. The \$1.5 billion (\$2.5 billion) jump in her wealth came about largely through a sharp rise in the value of the royal art treasures and her extensive portfolio of shares. The survey by the Sunday Times newspaper showed that the 200 wealthiest people in Britain were \$10 billion (\$16 billion) richer than they were a year ago. Their collective wealth increased to more than \$48 billion (\$78 billion). Second to the queen with \$4.2 billion (\$6.9 billion) came the Duke of Westminster, thanks to his ownership of large areas of prime residential land in the most fashionable districts of London. Prominent on the list were pop stars and impresarios, with former Beatle Paul McCartney said to be worth \$230 million (\$370 million) and rolling stone Mick Jagger with \$75 million (\$120 million). To be "seriously rich" in Britain today requires a fortune of at least \$50 million (\$80 million), according to the Sunday Times.

## Soviet strength in Far East poses potential threat to Japan — aide

**TOKYO (AP) —** The Soviets continue to pose a potential military threat to Japan, a top Japanese defence official said Monday.

Akira Hiyoshi, chief of the Bureau of Defence Policy in the Defence Agency, noted that the Soviet Union recently announced cuts in its Asian military forces, some of which have already been realised.

But the Soviets have also taken steps including modernisation of weaponry, Hiyoshi told a lower house budget committee session. "This will be a potential threat

to our country," though Japan does not believe the Soviet Union actually has aggressive intentions toward it, Hiyoshi said.

Hiyoshi's comments came during a committee session on Japan's fiscal 1990 budget.

The spending plan calls for 4.16 trillion yen (\$29.3 billion) in defence outlays, an increase of about 6 per cent from the previous fiscal year.

Japanese officials have said the increase is needed to improve housing and living conditions of the Self Defence Forces and help meet U.S. demands that Japan

pay more or all of the cost of maintaining 50,000 U.S. troops in the country.

Japan currently pays about \$2.6 billion, or 45 per cent, of the U.S. troops' annual expenses.

Hiyoshi's comments came in response to questions from Shioichi Ichikawa, a legislator from the opposition Komeito (clean government) Party, who asked whether the government had revised its view of the military threat posed by the Soviets in light of reduced superpower tensions.

## Secessionist poised to win Slovenia runoff elections

**LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) —** A runoff will decide the contest between a reformed Communist and a conservative secessionist to become the liberal republic's first freely elected president since 1945, according to Monday's election results.

With 98 per cent of the ballots counted from Sunday's presidential balloting, Communist candidate Milan Kucan led with 44.4 per cent and Jozse Pucnik of the right-of-centre Demos opposition coalition was second with 26.2 per cent.

Independent candidate Ivan Kramberger was third with 18.9 per cent, and Liberal Party candidate Marko Demsar trailed in fourth place with 10.5 per cent.

Since neither Kucan nor Pucnik received an absolute majority of more than 50 per cent of votes in Sunday's polling, they will meet in a runoff on April 22.

An estimated 1.1 million Slovenians, or 75 per cent of eligible voters, voted in the first multiparty elections in Yugoslavia since World War II. They chose among 17 parties for the new Slovenian parliament and among four candidates for president.

The first-round results "suggest that Slovenians have opted for a peaceful transition from a single-party monopoly to a parliamentary democracy," Kucan, a key engineer of the republic's road to democracy, told the Associated Press.

Pucnik, a former dissident who spent seven years in Slovenian prisons in the 1950s for his opposition to communism, said he was confident of winning the runoff "because those who voted for Kramberger and Demsar will now probably vote for me."

Political analysts predict a close race between Pucnik, who advocates quick secession, and Kucan.

## Peruvians vote in presidential elections

**LIMA, Peru (AP) —** Soldiers armed with automatic weapons protected polling stations against terrorist attacks as Peruvians voted in a presidential election pitting favoured candidate Mario Vargas Llosa against a late-surging contender.

Voters Sunday choosing a president to replace populist Alan Garcia, whose five-year term ends July 28. He is ineligible to serve a consecutive term.

Nearly 10 million registered voters also were choosing a new congress, including 60 senators and 180 members of the Chamber of Deputies.

Polls opened at 8 a.m. (1200 GMT) and were to close at 3 p.m. (1900 GMT). Official results will not be available for weeks.

Leftist guerrillas exploded dynamite near polling stations early Sunday in downtown Lima and an outlying shantytown. Police said no one was injured and nothing was damaged by the explosions.

Police Inspector Lief Skoglund said the remains of 75 victims were removed from the blackened shell of the ferry before a team of officers entered cabins previously blocked by fire and searing heat.

"When they went inside the boat they saw lots and lots of dead bodies, maybe 100 more," said Skoglund. "There may be 170 dead on board."

Skoglund emphasised the figure was a rough estimate. Police earlier estimated the number of victims on the 20-year-old vessel at about 150. But said that did not count children who would not appear on any passenger list.

The ship caught fire before dawn Saturday on the North Sea voyage from Oslo, Norway to Frederikshavn, Denmark.

The captain of the ship denied improper behaviour Monday amid reports that he and his officers abandoned the burning vessel as rescue efforts got under way.

District police chief Roar Onso said a commission of officials from Sweden, Norway and Denmark would conduct an investigation paralleling the police probe.

"We are working on the assumption that the fire was arranged," said Norwegian criminal police chief Magnar Aukrust in Oslo. "In that case, it is a real disaster, caused by one or several persons," he said.

Captain Hago Larsen was on the bridge of the 10,500-ton ferry as the smoldering ship was towed into harbour at dusk Saturday. Fire officials said he had left the ship before all survivors were evacuated, although he returned later.

"I never failed the passengers," Larsen was quoted as saying by Sweden's national news agency (TT). "It was only when the flames were around the bridge and we didn't have a chance to go down to look for more passengers on the deck that I gave the order to leave the ship."

Also said Sunday that efforts to pinpoint the cause of the fire would begin in earnest as soon as all the bodies were taken out, and the ship cooled enough for investigators to work.

Police confirmed that at least two fires broke out on separate decks within a few minutes of each other.

An American performer believed killed in the North Sea ferry fire had been looking for her "big break" aboard the Scandinavian Star, her mother said.

Ruth E. Rome, 27, part of a seven-member song-and-dance troupe from New York City hired a week earlier to entertain passengers on the trip from Norway to Denmark, was missing and presumed dead in the fire that began before dawn Saturday, her mother, Winifred, said Sunday.

But supplies of oil, gas, important raw materials, repair parts, fertilizer and communications could be cut off, the commission said.

"The hands are on the fan, but they haven't been turned," said Laurence Summers, a Harvard University economics professor and one of the experts Kazickas has helped to bring over as an adviser on economic reform.

Lithuania and its sister Baltic states, Latvia and Estonia, have drawn up complete economic reform plans, their people generally appear willing to accept higher prices and unemployment as part of the parcel.

All three Baltic republics were part of the Russian empire from the late 18th century until after World War I. They are independent since the wars but forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 after Moscow took control of the republics under terms of the secret Hitler-Stalin pact.

Independence in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia coincided with some of the Soviet Union's most ruinous years, in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Baltic republics' roads, buildings, and communications generally are in far better repair than those of the Soviet Union, evidence of greater efficiency and their period of independence. There are three freeways in

Mrs. Prunskiene has said Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and his cabinet refused to transfer most authority from Moscow to Vilnius.

For example, Prunskiene suggested that the majority of the 200-plus factories now run by ministries in Moscow be turned over to Lithuanian control. Ryzhkov and his ministers are willing to hand over only a few dozen.

Lithuanian officials aim for their nation of 3.8 million people, about the size and population of Ireland, to develop a thriving economy based on selling meat, milk and consumer goods to the Soviet Union and shipping its imports and exports.

But Moscow built many of Lithuania's factories according to no economic logic, far from raw materials and customers. They manufacture goods so outmoded that only desperate Soviet consumers would buy them.

There has been no change in economic ties since the Baltic republic voted to secede. Relations with the Soviet Union are critical for Lithuania, which gets all its oil and gas from Siberia at low rates. Moscow needs Lithuania, whose factories produce parts for Soviet plants.

A Lithuanian parliamentary commission on independence said the republic has plenty of electric power, including a nuclear plant at Ignalina that can provide virtually all its needs.

The Kremlin, which has used troops to take over Lithuania's prosecutor's office and has waged a war of nerves to keep the republic in its fold, is standing in the way of some reform and could stifle other moves to revamp the republic's economy.